

Brighter for Mulvane's Pock

The El Dorado High School basketball team's first trophy was won Saturday night. The team was shining just as brightly then as it was two days later.

The reason for Pock's bright days outlook was Saturday night's game against Remington in the Bluestem Classic basketball tournament at El Dorado. The Wildcats won third place in the tournament, turning back the Remington Broncos, 60-56, in one overtime.

"That's our first trophy (boys basketball) for quite a while," beamed Pock after the game. "I was looking in the trophy case, noting some of the years, and this is our first trophy since the 1967-68 season.

"We had the kids over at my house Saturday night and they were really proud of it," added Pock. "After the Goddard game, I thought we were down a little and thought they might have given up because nothing went right for us. Goddard is big and physical and you really get knocked around by Goddard, but the kids went out and showed their poise against Remington."

The Wildcats, now 5-9 for the season, surpassing the victory total all of last year, had a last-second shot by Dale Walker rim out to send the game into overtime after Remington's Chuck Sommer had hit a bucket with 30 seconds left to tie the game at 44-44.

In the extra period, sophomore Gary Fortner canned two quick buckets and Perry Caldwell made a pair of free throws to give the Cats a six-point lead before the Broncos finally scored with less than one minute remaining.

"We worked the ball real well in the overtime and got our good shots and hit 'em," said Pock.

The Wildcats trailed most of the first half before taking the lead in the third quarter. That's when Mulvane's superior inside game started taking its toll.

"We stayed inside them and they got into foul trouble," noted Pock. "Perry Caldwell did a super job on this (Gary) Haas kid. He's the one who hurt El Dorado but Perry shut him down. He was fronting the Haas boy and when they tried to lob the ball in, I think he had three steals and deflected the ball many times."

Haas finished with only 12 points.

Walker and Brad Butts, a pair of seasoned veterans, led the Wildcats in the scoring department. Walker, the team's top scorer this season, scored 15 points, as did Butts. The sophomore Fortner continued to show his scoring punch with 11 points. Guard Jeff Arroyo added eight points.

Mulvane hurt the Broncos in two statistical areas. In rebounding, Mulvane took a 38-30 edge with the 6-foot-2 Butts and Fortner each coming away with a team-high eight rebounds. Walker and Courtney Gammon each had seven boards.

From the free throw line, a spot which has hurt Mulvane in the past games, Pock's warriors found the range, and it was actually the difference in the game. Outscored by two field goals, Mulvane made 20 of 37 free throws while the Broncos were making only 12 of 18.

The Wildcats made 43 per cent of their field attempts, making 20 of 47, and Remington hit 42 percent, 22-out-of-52.

In a semifinal game Thursday night against Goddard, the Wildcats fell behind early and never recovered as the Lions hammered out a 66-44 decision.

Goddard then went on to take the tourney title by blasting the host school, 63-49, Saturday night.

The 6-1 Caldwell topped the Wildcats' scoring against Goddard, hitting for 12 points. Walker finished with 11 and Gammon had 10 points.

Poor shooting plagued Mulvane as Pock's club made only 35 percent of its field tries, 15 of 43 while the Lions made 55 percent, 22 of 40. And free throwing didn't help matters, either, as Mulvane made only nine of 23 shots.

BLUESTEM CLASSIC THIRD PLACE

Remington	14	12	14	14	(2)-66
Mulvane	13	11	18	14	(6)-60
Remington—Devlin Sprecker 10, Steve Carter 7, Dwayne Staats 8, Gary Haas 12, Chuck Sommers 4, Eric Harms 15. FG 22-52, FT 12-18, F 21.					
Mulvane—Jeff Arroyo 8, Courtney Gammon 5, Dale Walker 15, Perry Caldwell 6, Brad Butts 15, Gary Fortner 11. FG 20-47, FT 20-37, F 13.					

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane	8	12	14	10-44
Goddard	16	22	12	18-66
Mulvane—Jeff Arroyo 2, Courtney Gammon 10, Dale Walker 11, Chad Scott 2, Perry Caldwell 12, Brad Butts 2, Gary Fortner 5. FG 15-43, FT 9-23, F 30.				
Goddard—Mark Morgan 2, Stan Weber 2, David Sage 12, Bill Ferguson 23, Don McCullough 2, Brad Blackwell 8, David Tallafarro 8, Doug Greenwood 8, Perkins 1. FG 22-40, FT 22-35, F 24.				