

Cats In Semis Thursday

The Mulvane Art association might not approve but it was good enough for Charlie Mason and every other Wildcat backer in the stands.

The Mulvane boys basketball team continued to sizzle Tuesday night, Feb. 28, in a first-round game in the Augusta Class 4A Sub-State Tournament as they whittled down Rose Hill in a 64-49 triumph in the Mulvane High gym.

Seeded No. 2 in the sub-state, the Wildcats now will face No. 3 seeded Circle (18-3) at 8 p.m. tonight (March 1) at Augusta. The winner will tangle at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 3, for the sub-state championship and a berth in the Class 4A State Championship to be held the following weekend at Salina.

Circle clipped Andover, 52-46, Tuesday to move into the semifinal. The other semifinals, who will be playing at 8 p.m. Friday, March 2, are Valley Center (14-7) and No. 1 seeded Eureka (19-2).

The Wildcats improved their standard to 19-2 but it wasn't without a struggle in the second half as the Rockets pulled from 18 points down to within nine several times in the fourth quarter. Rose Hill made it 51-42 with 3:04 left but the Cats iced it with a flurry of free throws, nine of 10, as senior Kevin Bell, junior David Belew, reserve Greg Quigley and Belew again each knocked down two from the stripe.

"It wasn't a work of art," chided Mason, "but sometimes the first game in the sub-state is the hardest. We were fortunate our first game was at home, where we're undefeated this year."

The Cats, in fact, have won 12 in a row at home.

Mulvane put the Rockets, who finished their season at 6-15, on the run early with a 10-0 spurt in the second quarter to a 26-11 lead and hung to a 30-19 halftime edge primarily on the strength of 13 Rose Hill turnovers.

In the end, it was Mulvane's veterans putting the heat on the Rocket's rookies--Rose Hill had a predominately underclass line-up. When the Cats applied the pressure, Rocket passes went everywhere. Overall, Mulvane forced 24 turnovers.

"That was the biggest difference, our experience," admitted Mason. "We let them get back in the ball game late, so we spread it out--just put that in yesterday. We have three guards who can handle the ball and hit free throws, so it made it tough for Rose Hill."

"We were just kind of panic-stricken on their press," admitted Rocket coach Lloyd Liby.

Junior Lonny Travis spearheaded the Mulvane offensive with 18 points and Belew was right behind with 16. Both juniors hit six of seven from the stripe, paving the way for an 18-out-of-24 showing by MHS in the free throw department.

Senior Kevin Bell scored 12 points, played a good floor game and keyed the Mulvane presses.

Third time wasn't a charm for the Wildcat girls as Valley Center ended their season by smothering a late rally by the Cats to pull out a 46-36 triumph Monday night, Feb. 27, at Valley Center. It was a first-round game in the Augusta Class 4A Sub-State, and Valley advanced to Augusta to meet Council Grove in a 6:30 p.m. game Friday night, March 2.

It also was the third straight defeat for Mulvane's girls at the hands of Valley Center this year, the earlier two coming by a total of four points.

"We were competitive and we were in the ball game but it came down to hitting free throws and we came up second best in that department," said Bill Stinson, Mulvane head coach.

The Hornets salted the game away at the line, hitting 10 of 11 in the fourth quarter. During that same stretch, the Cats zeroed in only one of six.

"All along, we felt like we were as good as Valley Center and it just came down to them capitalizing on it," stressed Stinson. "I thought another big turning point was when we went ahead, 25-24, in the third quarter and we came down twice with a change to take a bigger lead but we threw the ball away. We had the momentum and I think those two missed chances really hurt us."

Overall, the Cats made 43% from the field, a tad better than the Hornets, who made 41%.

Senior Tawnya Infinger was the lone Wildcat who was in double figures. She finished with 12 points, all coming in the MHS second half surge. Sophomore Lori Cox scored nine points and Diane Mohny and Lisa Jones scored four each. Melody Carey was next with three points.

AUGUSTA CLASS 4A BOYS SUB-STATE FIRST ROUND At Mulvane

Rose Hill	11 8 11 19-49
Mulvane	16 14 15 10-64
Rose Hill--Mike Bradfield 5, Steve Moeder 4, Larry Myers 9, Tim Johannes 5, Mark Potts 7, Scott Farber 2, Kendall Gammon 15. FG 20-40, FT 9-14, F 18.	
Mulvane--Lonny Travis 18, David Belew 16, Kevin Bell 12, Greg Quigley 4, Aaron Huslig 2, J.C. Shook 2, Todd Travis 8. FG 23-57, FT 18-24, F 17.	

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE FINAL BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
x-Buhler	9	1	15	5
Mulvane	8	2	18	2
Valley Center	6	4	14	7
Goddard	4	6	7	13
Wellington	3	7	5	14
Augusta	0	10	0	20

x--won division championship

DIVISION II

x-Circle	7	1	18	3
Maize	6	2	15	6
Clearwater	5	3	11	9
Andale	5	3	10	10
Haven	4	4	12	9
Andover	4	4	9	12
Chaparral	2	6	5	15
Kingman	2	6	4	17
Rose Hill	1	7	6	15

x--won division championship

SUB-STATE SCHEDULES

AUGUSTA CLASS 4A SUB-STATE

Tonight (March 1)

Mulvane (19-2) vs. Circle (18-3), 8 p.m.

Friday, March 2

Eureka (19-2) vs. Valley Center (14-7), 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 3

Winner of game 1 vs. winner of game 2, 8 p.m.

MAIZE CLASS 4A SUB-STATE

Tonight (March 1)

Nickerson (14-7) vs. Maize (15-6), 8 p.m.

Friday, March 2

Pratt (19-2) vs. Haven (12-9), 8 p.m.

COFFEYVILLE CLASS 5A SUB-STATE

Tonight (March 1)

Wellington vs. Coffeyville, 8 p.m.

GODDARD CLASS 5A SUB-STATE

Tonight (March 1)

Bishop Carroll vs. Buhler, 8 p.m.

Friday, March 2

Goddard vs. Liberal, 8 p.m.

FINAL REGULAR SEASON RESULTS

Mulvane 64, Augusta 30
Buhler 73, Wellington 61
Circle 62, Haven 45
Valley Center 57, Goddard 52
Maize 76, Andover 67
Andale 52, Rose Hill 46
Kingman 64, Chaparral 63