

Upset Circle, Too

Wildcats Ice Crusaders

Call him the "King Of Ice."

Mulvane senior Bryce Schumacher is fast becoming "King Ice" for the Mulvane High School boys. His last-second shots in the last two games guided the Wildcats to two of the biggest victories in the last decade.

Schumacher dropped through two three-pointers as the Wildcats rallied to wipe out a six-point Wellington lead with nine seconds to play Tuesday night, March 3, in the first round of the Mulvane Class 4A Sub-State. His second shot came as the horn sounded and tied the game against the Crusaders, and the Cats won it in overtime, 60-56, moments later to advance into the semifinals Friday night, March 6.

Just five days earlier, Schumacher's 18-footer slammed through the nets to give the Wildcats a 42-40 upset victory over Circle in the regular season finale Thursday, Feb. 26. Circle came into the game with an 18-1 record.

Mulvane's remarkable sub-state comeback against Wellington shot the Cats into the semifinals against Kingman (14-7) at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The 6 p.m. game pits Pratt (15-6) against Douglass (9-12).

Mulvane Class 4A Boys Sub-State Results

FIRST ROUND

Wellington 10 14 15 15 (2)-56
Mulvane 11 9 14 20 (6)-60

Wellington--Jed Sikes 12, J.R. Metzger 2, Dan Beck 3, Danny Crittenden 12, Chris Weikal 11, David Flores 14, Paul Morgan 2. FG 24 (1), FT 7-14, F 21.

Mulvane--Bryce Schumacher 18, Rob Parker 7, Dan McElroy 7, Chad Gerwick 6, Darrin Erbert 22. FG 21 (8), FT 10-19, F 13.

Kingman 80, Chaparral 42

Pratt 67, Clearwater 50

Douglass 59, Rose Hill 50

Varsity Boys

Mulvane 14 4 14 10-42
Circle 6 6 13 15-40

Mulvane--Rob Parker 11, Dan McElroy 4, Bryce Schumacher 11, Darrin Erbert 14, Jesse Marksberry 2. FG 17 (3), FT 5-7, F 11.

Circle--Ryan Murphy 16, Mike Palmer 8, Jacob Cooper 6, Mike Hodgins 6, Tyler Bacon 2, Brandon Hendrix 2. FG 17 (0), FT 6-10, F 9.

Junior Varsity boys

Mulvane 15 10 8 23-56
Circle 15 19 20 15-69

Mulvane--Brian McColpin 13, Garrett Hennes 17, Jesse Marksberry 2, Jake Wilkinson 6, Randy Johnson 8, Brian Dinkel 2, Nick Pope 3, Tom Anderson 4, Josh Hanson 1. FG 22 (3), FT 9-11, F 22.

Circle--Josh Casady 4, Brandon Hendrix 6, Mark Prillman 8, Toby White 16, Jake Myers 7, Tony Short 2, Travis Brundage 8, Nick Whitson 11, Matt Green 7. FG 26 (3), FT 14-22, F 9.

Mulvane Class 4A

Sub-State Pairings

TONIGHT (MARCH 5)

6 p.m.—Kingman (8-13) vs. Clearwater (19-2)

7:30 — Wellington (6-15) vs. Rose Hill (14-7)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

6 p.m.—Douglass (9-12) vs. Pratt (15-6)

7:30 — Mulvane (11-10) vs. Kingman (14-7)

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

6 p.m. (Girls Championship)—winners of Thursday night's games

7:30 (Boys Championship)—winners of Friday night's games

The Cats were down by six points, 54-48, with nine seconds left in the game when the sky fell on the Crusaders. A three moments earlier by Chad Gerwick started the Wildcat charge from eight points back with less than one minute to tick. Schumacher's three-pointer from the right side slipped through the nets and made it a three-point game. Mulvane immediately fouled and Wellington missed both free throws, setting the stage for Schumacher's three as the horn sounded which tied the game at 54-54.

The high-flying Wildcats charged ahead quickly in overtime, Rob Parker taking a nice feed under the basket for two points as Mulvane took its first lead since the second quarter. Senior guard Darrin Erbert made two free throws but it was left to Schumacher to make the next two biggest plays of the overtime. Wellington had the ball trailing, 58-56, inside 10 seconds left in overtime. Schumacher slapped away a pass inside, leading to Erbert being fouled with four seconds left, then Schumacher was fouled with two seconds left after Wellington missed two free throws which could have tied the game again.

He didn't miss though, putting the game on, excuse the pun, ice.

"What a game," said Cat Coach Todd Barker. "It looked bleak there for a while. I didn't want it to end. We took our chances with the three and we did all right. We had eight of them to only one for Wellington and that was a critical factor.

"There were so many emotion switches in the last 10 seconds of the regulation that I can't describe them," added the Cat coach.

Coming from six points down with nine seconds to play had to be the topper,

though. Until those fateful seconds, it appeared Wellington would knock off the Cats. "We talked before the game about coming out and being patient," said Barker. "Instead, the kids came out tentative and when Wellington got the lead, they were happy to just jam it back around the basket and let us pass the ball around. In the second half, though, we asked the kids to turn it up and they just went to work like they had ice in their veins."

Erbert was Mulvane's top scorer. He had 22 points. Schumacher scored 18 points, Parker and Dan McElroy had seven each and Gerwick tossed in six.

Parker also helped the Cats hang in there on the boards, getting 13 rebounds as Mulvane and Wellington battled to 28 apiece.

The momentum started building earlier at

Circle as the Wildcats squared their record at 10-10 with the Thunderbird upset. They accomplished it by going to a slowdown game and hitting all their field attempts in the second half. The Cats were 9-for-9 from the field in the third and fourth quarters.

Erbert's 14 points topped the Cat effort. Schumacher and Parker scored 11 each and McElroy chipped in four as the Wildcats topped the No. 2 ranked 4A team in the state.

"After that thumping we took from them earlier in the year, I decided right then we were going to sit on it," said Barker. "The kids bought in on that strategy and made it work. They relaxed and acted like they had been doing it all season."

It was the biggest regular season victory for the MHS boys in years, and also propelled them into "The Ice Age."