

The King Is Dead, Wildcats' State Title Hopes Dashed

It was showtime but the Mulvane High School Wildcats weren't around to answer the curtain-call. Instead, Haven stepped into the spotlight.

With a second straight trip to the Kansas State High School Activities Association Class 4A State Tournament at stake, Mulvane needed only slip past Haven to spend the next weekend in Salina but the Haven Wildcats roasted Mulvane under a third-quarter blitz to record a 60-44 victory Saturday, March 2, in the Class 4A Sub-State Tournament championship at Augusta High School.

Haven took charge in the third quarter, out-scoring Coach Charlie Mason's 4A defending state champions, 21-7, as they hit almost every field attempt they tried.

Andale won a trip back to Salina, site of the 4A State Tournament, to defend its state championship by blasting Circle, 70-54, in the girls championship.

"We were a step behind mentally and physically all night," said Mason. "That's no excuse. Playing back-to-back Friday and Saturday night took a lot out of us because it was a very emotional game Friday night against Rose Hill. You can't take anything away from Haven, though. They did exactly what they had to do. They used their size. They have one of the biggest teams in 4A. They were patient on offense and rebounded well."

Haven thoroughly dominated inside. The Mulvane frontliners scored only one bucket all night. "They jammed it tight inside and forced us to play a perimeter game," added Mason. "Sometimes we didn't get it in when we had a chance, other times they wouldn't let it go inside. We were a little over-matched inside because they were bigger and quicker."

The game was nip-and-tuck in the first 16 minutes with Haven hanging onto a 23-21 lead at intermission, but more importantly, controlling the tempo of the game. Haven ran it out to 28-21 before Mulvane finally scored nearly three minutes into the second half, and in the next four minutes, Haven ran off 16 points to only five for Mulvane.

"On Saturday night, Haven played about as good as it could play," added Mason. "They were 15 of 19 (79%) from the field in the second half. If they play three more games like they did against us, they're going to be state champions."

The loss not only kept Mulvane from defending the 4A state title won a year ago but it also kept the Cats from having back-to-back 20-victory years. Mulvane ended the season at 19-4. With a 44-28 cushion going into the final eight minutes, Haven was in charge. The Cats never were in the contest after that as Haven built up a 22-point lead, 52-30, with about five minutes left.

"Haven got a lot of breaks in the first half," added the MHS coach. "Usually the third and fourth quarters are ours and I guess we did a good job in the final quarter but we couldn't overcome that third quarter. They did a good job handling whatever we threw against them. When you get size working and



Mulvane senior David Belew [14] wheels around a screen by Buddy Moyer [13] in an attempt to shake a Haven defender



get the ball inside, it's tough to stop."

Overall, Haven hit a sizzling 60% from the field for the game. Mulvane had one of its poorest shooting outings, making only 19 of 56 (34%).

Seniors Lonny Travis, David Belew and Greg Quigley ended their stellar careers on a sad note. Travis, who had averaged over 25 points a game, finished with 17 points against Haven but he hit a dismal 7-of-24 from the field. Belew, a three-year starter as was Travis, scored 14 points and Quigley finished with 10.

In all, eight seniors ended their careers in Mulvane green. "I'm just tremendously proud of them, they went out winners in my eyes," stressed Mason. "They accomplished some things that some never accomplish. They went 19-4, they won the (Chisholm Trail) league championship and they ended up 51-18 over the last three years, so you can't complain about that. Don't look at

the last ball game, look at the course of events over the last three years and you'll see the quality."

Mulvane roughed up Rose Hill Friday night, March 1, to reach the championship game, pounding the Rockets, 70-45. Haven marched into the sub-state title game a night earlier by trouncing Andover, 58-39.

"We played as good a ball game as we could against Rose Hill," said Mason. "Rose Hill does a good job with its half-court defense but we just had a great offensive game. They turned the ball over a few times early in the second half, we got some three-point plays and our pressure finally got to them."

Mulvane nosed out to a 33-22 halftime lead behind the guard Belew's outstanding scoring. He had 10 points and Quigley had six in the first half. After the halftime, however, it was all Mulvane. The Cats started the half with Belew making a steal at mid-court and feeding Travis with a perfect ally-oop pass for a slam dunk and Mulvane was off and running.

Quigley had a steal and converted two free throws, followed almost immediately by another Belew theft, which led to a layup and a 39-22 lead with 6:57 left in

the third quarter. Rose Hill went more than three minutes without a score and by that time, the Wildcats were on their way with a 43-22 lead.

Belew finished with 19 points, Quigley had 17 and Travis tossed in 15. Seniors Aaron Huslig added seven points, Buddy Moyer had five and Mike Rodgers four for Mulvane.

AUGUSTA CLASS 4A SUB-STATE BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP

Mulvane	10	11	7	16-44
Haven	10	13	21	16-60
Mulvane—Lonny Travis 17, David Belew 14, Greg Quigley 10, Aaron Huslig 1, Buddy Moyer 2. FG 19-56, FT 8-11, F 21.				
Haven—David Laughlin 17, Tim Bernard 17, David Chamberlain 6, Tod Bernard 16, Rich Myer 4. FG 25-42, FG 10-20, F 11.				

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane	13	20	21	16-70
Rose Hill	7	15	12	11-45
Mulvane—Bo Jones 2, Lonny Travis 15, Aaron Huslig 7, Greg Quigley 17, David Belew 19, Mike Rodgers 4, Buddy Moyer 5, Morgan LeClair 1. FG 27-52, FT 16-28, F 20.				
Rose Hill—Steve Moeder 10, Larry Myers 2, Tim Johannes 7, Kendall Gammon 9, Scott Farber 6, Mark Potts 7, Steve Swaney 2, Scott Wilson 2. FG 16-37, FT 13-21, F 23.				

Haven 58, Andover 39

GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Andale 70, Circle 54

SEMIFINAL

Andale 66, Rose Hill 52
Circle 51, Andover 40