

Mulvane Wildcats

Stopped by Clearwater In Sub-State Finals

It was sad in a way and a little happy, too, the showing by Mulvane High School last week in the Augusta Sub-State basketball tournament, the last stepping stone to the Class 3A State Tournament.

Mulvane came within a whisker of going to State but had to settle for Sub-State runner-up Saturday night, losing to Clearwater, 52-49, in the championship game.

One night earlier, the Wildcats had come from behind with a 25-point barrage to surprise Chaparral, 55-50, and move into the finals of the sub-state (previously known as a regional) for the first time since the 1965-66 season.

It was a little sad because the Cats came so very close to sweet victory. But there was even more to celebrate because of the heroic play by Mulvane to carry the team into the championship game.

"We fought, we scrapped and we dug, said Mulvane head basketball coach Roger Pock. "We don't have anything to be ashamed of. We have come a long way, farther than most thought we could, and I'm proud of our kids because of it."

"Those seniors have set a good example for the other kids to follow. We got where we are tonight by sheer hustle and just pure guts. I'm not unhappy with the kids. I'm very satisfied with the way the kids played."

Pock had a right to be. After all, the Wildcats went into the tournament seeded No. 7, bumping off No. 2 seeded Fredonia in the first round and Chaparral in the second round.

"We just didn't hit," said Pock of the game for the title Saturday night. "We didn't get into our offense until it was too late and we weren't hitting the open man like we were the night before."

Clearwater, running its record to 19-2, showed its poise early after trailing most of the first quarter, the Indians ran off a streak of points, outscoring Mulvane, 13-2, during a stretch in the second quarter to take a 28-23 halftime lead.

"We never could make up that big lead they got in the second quarter," said Pock. What really hurt was the fact that Clearwater hit 70 percent of their shots during that stretch, coupled with five straight turnovers by the Wildcats.

The Wildcats trailed by as much as 10 points in the third quarter, then came on with a rush in the final period, drawing within two points, 50-48, on a three-point play by Brad Butts with less than three minutes to tick.

That was it, though, as the Cats could get no closer.

They closed out the year with an 8-14 record but posted two trophies in the school's trophy case for the first time in many moons.

Butts led the scoring against Clearwater, hitting 17 points. Dale Walker, scoring well late in the game, finished with 11 points and junior Courtney Gammon added nine points.

Butts' 17 rebounds also paced Mulvane to a 44-25 bulge in rebounding. Sophomore Mark Smith and Gammon each had seven bounds.

The story unfolded much the same Friday night against Chaparral, a team that had smothered Mulvane earlier this year, 66-47. The Wildcats fell behind early then came on behind Walker's brilliant shooting to trip the Roadrunners, who finished the year with a 14-7 record.

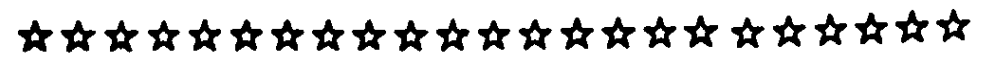
Walker hit bucket after bucket in the fourth-period uprising. A senior who was the leading scorer on the team this season, Walker scored 11 points in the last four minutes as the Wildcats grabbed the lead at 50-48 with 1:37 remaining in the contest and held on.

Walker finished with 17 points and Butts poured in 16. Senior Perry Caldwell finished with 8 points.

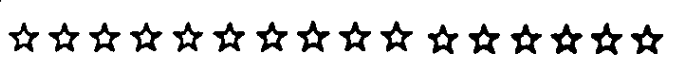
Clearwater advanced to the Class 3A State Tournament at the Hutchinson Sports Arena for a 6:30 p.m. game tonight against Chapman (12-10) in the first-round play.

In the girls sub-state play also at Augusta, Fredonia advanced with a 20-1 record.

Only two Chisholm Trail League teams are alive in state tourney action. Buhler's boys team, sporting a 19-3 record, will play an opening-round game at 5 tonight against Kansas City Ward (13-9). The Buhler girls (20-2) also are carrying Chisholm Trail colors, meeting Marysville (19-2) at 5:30 p.m. today in first-round play.



FINAL BOYS STATISTICS							FINAL GIRLS STATISTICS						
Player	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	RB	Pts.	Player	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	RB	Pts.
Dale Walker	106	224	51	81	91	263	Kathy Dody	83	328	23	63	131	189
Brad Butts	88	206	47	78	209	223	Jackie Smith	35	88	20	45	26	90
Courtney Gammon	89	173	29	57	112	167	Shelly Gerlach	32	122	24	43	46	88
Perry Caldwell	55	110	46	77	117	156	Jan Dankert	27	105	15	38	45	69
Gary Fortner	54	88	16	42	78	124	Vicki Kill	18	53	25	43	60	61
Jeff Arroyo	34	113	42	62	51	110	Cindi Lawless	14	39	7	14	39	37
Chad Scott	18	46	7	11	24	43	Liz Hendricks	10	45	13	21	27	33
Mark Smith	10	21	7	9	18	27	Car Johnson	13	50	1	8	30	27
Steve Steinbach	3	8	11	18	14	17	Sandy Whetstone	5	16	5	17	13	15
Others	5	17	4	9	7	14	Others	5	20	6	13	19	16
Totals	442	1046	272	442	721	1156	Totals	237	824	133	305	460	616
		(423)	(615)	32.4	52.5				(288)	(436)		34.2	
Opponents	520	1079	235	394	616	1275	Opponents	387	978	138	306	562	1038
		(482)	(596)	28.0	58.0								



CHAMPIONSHIP	SEMIFINAL
Mulvane 12-11-7-13-49	Chaparral 18-12-8-12-50
Clearwater 17-16-12-12-52	Mulvane 8-15-7-25-55
Mulvane: Jeff Arroyo 2, Courtney Gammon 9	Chaparral: Vern Minor 5, Jesse Craig 2, Mike
Dale Walker 21, Perry Caldwell 2, Brad Butts 17	Shurley 1, James Craig 10, Rich Giesen 12, Doug
Gary Fortner 3, Chad Scott 1, Mark Smith 4, FG	Brown 16, Pat Shurley 10, FG 19-41, FT 12-19, F
21-44, FT 2-13, F 21	12
Clearwater: Marty Reynolds 2, Rodney Gerlach	Mulvane: Courtney Gammon 4, Dale Walker 17,
11, Rusty Seife 6, Dar Lee 20, Bruce Roth 2, Mike	Perry Caldwell 8, Brad Butts 16, Jeff Arroyo 2,
Barker 3, Don Luger 2, FG 21-51, FT 10-19, F 14	Chad Scott 4, Gary Fortner 2, Mark Smith 2, FG
	22-46, FT 11-17, F 16

