

Kapaun Ends 'Cats Regular Cage Season

By John Corney

Five Wildcat seniors played their last basketball game of the season last Wednesday night. They were: Craig Levering, Rick Farber, Max Nichols, Del Hargrove and Phil Roney, and although they fought in a losing battle it was one of the finest games the 'Cats played all season.

Mulvane lost to Wichita Kapaun by a score of 69-65. It was a closely-contested battle from the tipoff to the final buzzer with the 'Cats only enjoying a one-time three-point lead and the Crusaders a three-time six-point lead.

Trailing the entire stanza the 'Cats fell behind by 6 at the end of the first quarter. In the second stanza the 'Cats cut Kapaun's lead by four, and as intermission arrived, Wichita's entry in the Regional Tournament held only a two-point advantage, 37-35.

The third period proved to be the most exciting portion of the game. The 'Cats tied the game 24 seconds after the third stanza began and then took their first lead 23 seconds later. The lead then bounced back and forth a total of 10 times, the last only 46 seconds before the quarter closed. When the period ended the score stood knotted at 52 apiece.

The last quarter started off much the same as the first had. The 'Cats fell quickly behind by four and missed three must free throws. But the 'Cats never gave in, and with only three seconds left to play they scored on a layup and called a quick time out. Although their position looked hopeless the 'Cats got the ball back and took one last attempt before the buzzer sounded to give the Crusaders their slim and less-than-noble victory.

It was difficult to accept the fact that the 'Cats lost the game on free throws, after shooting a fine 74% (17-23) from the charity stripe. But the Crusaders hit a sizzling 87%, missing only three of 24 attempts at the gift line. Both teams shot 51% from the floor, hitting 24 out of 47 attempts.

Craig Levering took scoring honors for the 'Cats, hitting 8 of 13 field goals and 5 of 7 at the free throw line for a total of 21 counters. He was followed by Terry Craig with 15 and Rick Farber with 11.

	FG	FT	F	TP
Levering	8	5	1	21
Roney	1	2	1	4
Nichols	3	2	1	8
Hargrove	2	2	2	6
Farber	5	1	1	11
Craig	5	5	2	15
Fleming	0	0	0	0
Team	24	17	8	65
Kapaun	24	21	6	69