

# Salina Or Bust

## 'Ragamuffin' Cats Strike Gold In Sub-State Meet

It should have been a soap opera. Poor, small-town ragamuffins overcome great odds with hard work and parlay a lucky break into breaking the vault at Fort Knox and live for the day they can do the same thing again.

That tells the story of the Mulvane High School boys basketball team in the Augusta 4A Sub-State. The Wildcats survived a bullet with their name on it at the buzzer, then streaked past Rose Hill in overtime, 57-52, to earn a spot in the Kansas State High School Activities Association 4A State Basketball Championship starting later today (March 13) at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

The Wildcats and their 13-10 record will battle Goodland (20-3) in the first

**KSHSAA CLASS 4A STATE TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS AT SALINA'S BICENTENNIAL CENTER Today (March 13)**

Game 1 - Goodland (20-2) vs. Mulvane (13-10), 3 p.m.  
 Game 2 - Pratt (16-4) vs. Paola (15-7), 4:45 p.m.  
 Game 3 - Garnett (18-4) vs. Abilene, 6:30 p.m.  
 Game 4 - Atchison (19-2) vs. Topeka Hayden (9-14), 8:15 p.m.

**Friday, March 14**  
 Game 5 - winners of games 1 and 2, 4:45 p.m.  
 Game 6 - winners of games 3 and 4, 8:15 p.m.

**Saturday, March 15**  
 Game 7 (Third Place) - losers of games 5 and 6, 2:45 p.m.  
 Game 8 (Championship) - winners of games 5 and 6, 8:15 p.m.

game of this year's 4A state extravaganza at Salina at 3 p.m. today. It will be Mulvane's second state trip under Coach Charlie Mason--the Cats

romped to the 4A championship in 1984. It will be Goodland's first state trip since 1965.

The Cats went into the Augusta sub-state as underdogs, but came out on top of No. 1 seeded Rose Hill when Rocket standout Kendall Gammon, who had been injured in the second quarter, missed a shot from point blank range off an in-bounds play as the buzzer sounded in regulation.

He missed...and so did the Rockets because the Wildcats came alive in the overtime behind the free throwing by reserve Shay Cornejo and regulars Curtis Hicks and Andrew Swayne. It was actually Hicks' two tosses which gave MHS a four point lead, 54-50, in the last 30 seconds.



Starting five juniors, Mason had state expectations even though MHS started the year losing three in a row and being under the .500 mark all season. "I'm just extremely proud," said Mason, "and that's not idle talk. This is something we start talking about at the first practice of the year. We keep drumming into peoples' heads that we can make it to the state and part of the thing is believing. As soon as we found out who was in our sub-state, there were eight teams that believed they could get to Salina."

But there was only one--Mulvane--that could make it happen.

Both the Cats and Rockets sizzled in the first quarter and fizzled in the second half. Gammon carried the Rockets until he injured an ankle in the second quarter. Only a half-court shot by Hicks, who finished as one of four double-figure scorers for the Cats with 14 points, enabled Mulvane to tie, 18-18, after one quarter.

Mulvane could have put the game away in the third quarter but couldn't shake out of a poor streak of shooting, and Rose Hill wasn't doing much better. The Rockets finally tied the game with 1:59 left in regulation on two straight buckets off rebounds. Both teams then had a turnover before Gammon's fateful miss as the gun echoed to send the game into OT.

Morgan LeClair, who finished with 10 points, got the Cats rolling with a 10-footer off a rebound and Swayne added a bucket moments later. That set the stage for MHS free throws to hit five out of seven from the stripe in the final 33 seconds of the sub-state championship.

"When Kendall went down, that gave them a tremendous lift," stressed Mason. "Their other big kid came in and ripped us and their fans got into the game, but you have to give our guys credit. They hung right in there. And you have to give Gammon a lot of credit for playing after he was hurt, but his miss at the buzzer gave us the edge because we had taken their best shot and they had failed to win it."

"When you see a shot like that, your heart has a tendency to skip a beat. I felt the whole game that we would win it. Our inability to hit the free throws earlier let them back in the ball game, though." Overall, the Cats went 17 of 37 at the line.

The victory, Mulvane's ninth in its last 12 games, came in typical fashion--a pressing, swarming defense and balanced scoring. In addition to LeClair's 10 and 14 by Hicks, Swayne and Todd Fox each finished with 14 points. Cornejo finished with four points.

In a semifinal game Friday night, March 7, the Cats laced Caney Valley, 68-53, to move into the title showdown with the Rockets.

In that game, LeClair finished with 22 points and Hicks had 15. Fox and Swayne both had 14 points.

### AUGUSTA 4A BOYS SUB-STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mulvane 18 15 9 5 (10)-57  
 Rose Hill 18 12 8 9 (5)-52  
 Mulvane--Wes Moore 1, Shay Cornejo 4, Todd Fox 14, Curtis Hicks 14, Andrew Swayne 14, Morgan LeClair 10. FG 20, FT 17-37, F 22.  
 Rose Hill--Kendall Gammon 23, Mark Potts 10, Eddie Brower 9, Steve Swaney 2, Scott Wilson. FG 22, FT 8-22, F 27.

### SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 19 17 16 16-68  
 Caney Valley 12 14 8 19-53  
 Mulvane--Wes Moore 1, Bryson Butts 2, Kyle Steadman 9, Andrew Swayne 2, Shay Cornejo 5, Todd Fox 12, Curtis Hicks 15, Morgan LeClair 22. FG 26, FT 16-25, F 16.  
 Caney Valley--Mark Burns 14, Mark Vining 18, Chris Burst 9, Greg Kelley 4, Brad Bush 1, J.R. Peterson 2, Ernie Fields 4, Brian Anderson 1. FG 21, FT 11-19, F 20.

Rose Hill 59, Circle 51

### State Opponent

## Goodland Is MHS 'Carbon Copy'

One of Don Smith's life-time goals has been to take Goodland back to the state tournament hardwoods and it's a goal he finally has fulfilled after more than 20 years.

Smith is the coach of the Goodland Cowboys who will be tangling with Mulvane High School at 3 p.m. today in the opening game of the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Class 4A State Basketball Championship at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

A native of Goodland, Smith is in his seventh season at the Cowboy helm and finally has been able to reach that goal of taking Goodland back to the state tournament. "I remember how excited and how important making the state tournament was to me some 20 years ago as a senior guard on the 1963 Goodland team that finished second in the state," recalled Smith. "One of my major goals has been to return, and we finally have."

Smith will be sending his 20-3 Cowboys into the first game of this year's 4A state meet seeded No. 2 against Coach Charlie Mason's 13-10 Wildcats, the No. 7 seed. It will mark Goodland's first state tournament visit since 1965, when the Cowboys finished 4th. Goodland won the state championship in 1959. Since that flurry of state visits, the Cowboys have been blanked,

### GOODLAND COWBOYS (20-3)

Leoti, W 78-59  
 Ulysses, W 82-34  
 Syracuse, W 61-44  
 Scott City, W 72-34  
 x-Hoxie, W 52-47  
 x-Garden City, W 56-51  
 Burlington, Colo., W 74-67  
 x-Colby, L 55-60  
 x-Atwood, W 64-49  
 x-Thomas More Prep, L 59-77

McCook, Neb., W 59-49  
 Liberal, L 48-54  
 Clayton, N.M., W 84-54  
 x-Burlington, Colo., W 58-51  
 St. Francis, W 59-55  
 x-Dodge City, W 56-55  
 Colby, W 63-57  
 x-Oakley, W 58-44  
 McCook, Neb., W 56-40  
 Oberlin, W 68-51

Scott City Sub-State  
 x-Phillipsburg, W 89-58  
 Ulysses, W 77-40  
 Thomas More Prep, W 48-46  
 x-Home games

although Smith says he had an outstanding team in 1984 that went 20-3 before being knocked off by Colby in the sub-state final. Last season, the Cowboys finished 14-7.

"I'm excited," said Smith. "I told my wife that there was more excitement in the school hallways today than in years and we really needed it for our basketball program and for the community," said the Cowboy coach. "It's been 21 years since we've been there and there have been a lot of frustrations in those years, like two years ago. We

would have loved to play you."

That was the year Mulvane rolled to the 4A state championship.

Smith's Cowboys won the North West Kansas League this year with losses coming to Colby, Thomas More Prep and Liberal, the No. 1 seeded team in the 5A state meet. The Cowboys also played and beat another state tournament team, Hoxie, which is in the 3A state meet.

Smith feels Goodland and Mulvane were poured from the same mold. "Mulvane appears to be a carbon copy of us," said Smith, who starts four juniors along with 6-foot-2 senior Jon Psau, who is the club's top scorer and rebounder this season. "We don't have a lot of height either and have very balanced scoring. I'd say our balanced scoring has been the key to much of our success. We've had at least seven people league our scoring in at least one game and we've had up to nine players score in double figures at one time or another."

Behind the 6-2 Psau, Smith can count on 6-1 Shad Brouillette, 6-3 Mitch Jamison and 6-3 Ted Busse to be consistently in double figures, much like Mulvane counts on double-figure scoring from juniors Morgan LeClair, Curtis Hicks, Andrew Swayne and Todd Fox. Both Psau and Jamison started a year ago full-time and Brouillette and Busse were part-time starters.

The club's point guard is 5-7 junior Derek Mull.

"We have some concern about Mulvane having been up in the state tournament atmosphere two years ago but you never know how that is going to affect the play," said Smith. "I think it will be a plus in Mulvane's favor. We don't have many kids who have even stepped foot on a state tournament before."

Smith, who hasn't had a losing season in his seven years at Goodland, expects defense to play a role in the battle with the Wildcats and also butterflies. "One thing we as coaches are concerned about is for the players to get relaxed and get the butterflies out of their systems as soon as they can," said Smith. "There are bound to be a lot of them (butterflies) when they toss up that first ball."

"And I think defense will be crucial. We have given up 50 points a game. We play a variety of defenses just like Mulvane does and have a little better than average quickness. I would say Mulvane would have a little better quickness."

Goodland has posted victories against 6A schools Dodge City and Garden City, Colby and Thomas More Prep this season, but Smith said he felt Mulvane's schedule was a bit more impressive day-in and day-out. "We're just happy to be at Salina and hope we can make our stay last," said Smith.

### CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE FINAL BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS DIVISION I

Team	League W	L	Overall W	L
x-Buhler	9	1	15	7
Valley Center	7	3	16	6
Mulvane	6	4	13	10
Augusta	3	7	9	12
Wellington	2	8	7	13
Goddard	3	7	7	14

x-won CTL championship  
 Boldfaced teams still are playing in state meet

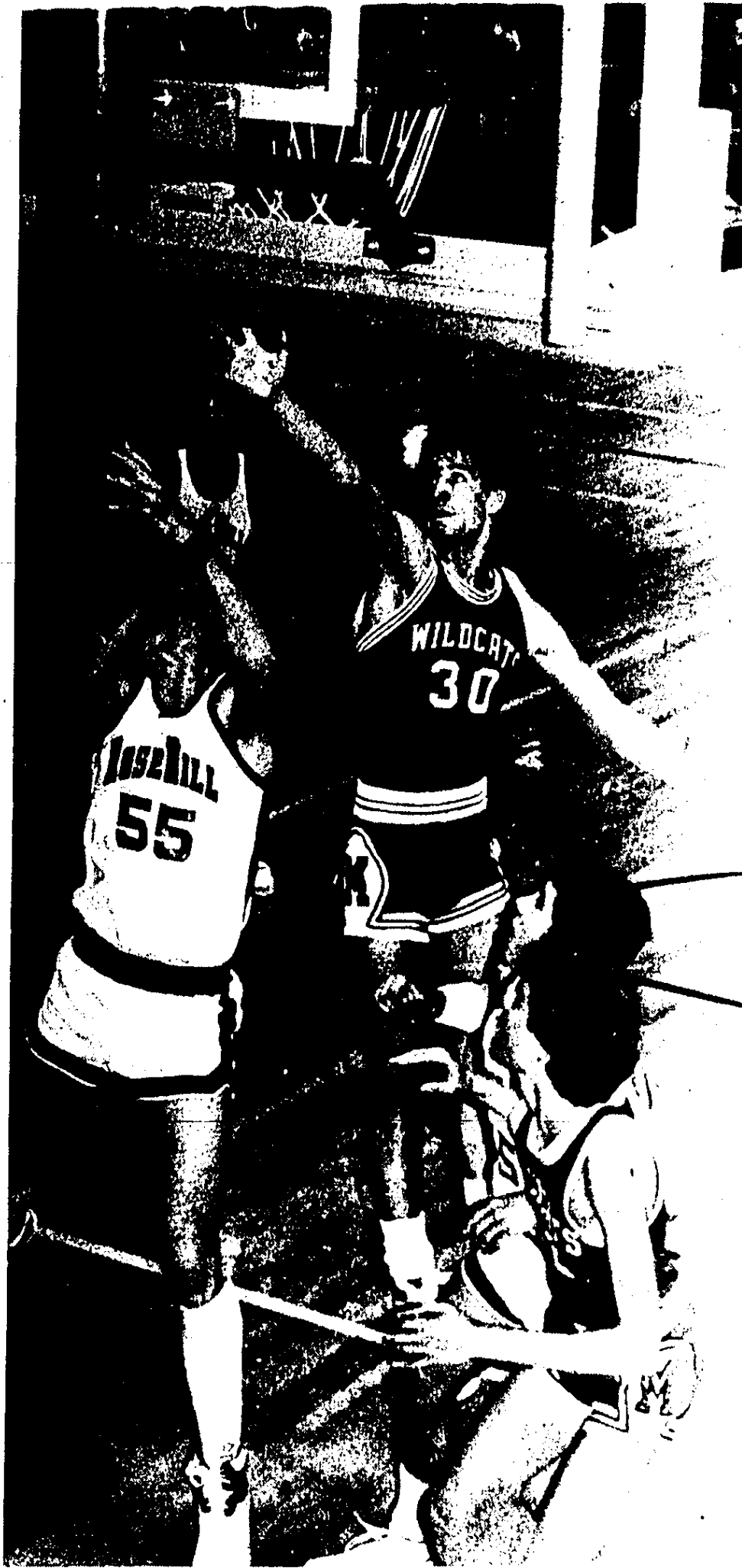
### DIVISION II

x-Clearwater	7	0	16	6
Andale	5	2	11	9
Rose Hill	4	3	15	8
Malze	4	3	12	9
Circle	3	4	9	13
Kingman	3	4	8	13
Andover	2	5	3	18
Chaparral	0	7	0	20

x-won CTL championship  
**THIS WEEK'S STATE PLAYOFF GAMES**  
 Today (March 13)

4A State Tournament at Salina's Bicentennial Center--Mulvane vs. Goodland, 3 p.m.  
 5A State Tournament at Emporia State University--Pittsburg vs. Buhler, 4:45 p.m., Valley Center vs. Winfield, 6:30

**Last Week's Sub-State Results**  
 At Augusta 4A (championship)--Mulvane 57, Rose Hill 52 (OT)  
 At Pratt 4A (championship)--Pratt 61, Nickerson 38  
 At Goddard 5A (championship)--Valley Center 61, Bishop Carroll 60  
 At Buhler 5A (championship)--Buhler 50, McPherson 47



Cats Andrew Swayne (30) goes high to swat away a shot in sub-state victory