

20-Game String Snapped

Boys Topple, 3rd At Maize

Whatever they say about ties, you can double it about playing for third place. That "kissing your sister" stuff is for the birds.

Nickerson saw to it that Mulvane got a chance to pucker up by playing for third place instead of first place in the annual Maize Boys Invitational Basketball Tournament. The Wildcats were on the prowl Saturday night, Dec. 15, and roasted the host Eagles, 83-65, to take third place.

A night earlier, the unbeaten and No. 1 ranked (in the Wichita Eagle) Cats had their first poor game and dropped a 68-63 outing to Nickerson. Nickerson turned around and dropped the championship game to Pratt, 68-41.

The loss to the Panthers snapped a 20-game winning streak over a two-season period for Mulvane, whose last loss came a year ago January at Buhler (70-68).

"It's not the end of the world but it is the start of a new string," said MHS coach Charlie Mason. "We get out of being No. 1 (the Cats dropped to No. 3) and winning 20 in a row. Now we can go out and play good, aggressive basketball where we're not looking over our shoulders."

Mulvane couldn't successfully defend the Maize tourney title because the Cats tooted off the first three quarters against Nickerson before unlocking that intense, pressing defense.

"We came out and didn't play like we were capable of playing," said Mason. "We didn't start playing until the last quarter but we had a lot of ground to make up by that time. On any given night, when we're not ready to play, we can get a loss. There are too many good teams around. I'd rather lose now than later on or in the league, though."

Against Maize, the Cats pulled ahead quickly behind a rash of Eagle turnovers, then put the game on ice by out-scoring Maize, 20-13, in the third quarter to take a 66-49 lead. Maize committed 30 turnovers to only 14 for the Cats.

Belew, Travis Make All-Tourney

Senior forward Lonny Travis and guard David Belew were named to the all-tournament first team following the conclusion of the Maize Boys Invitational Saturday night, Dec. 15.

The two Wildcat seniors were joined on the first unit by Chris Stang of Nickerson, Russell Neigenfind of Maize

MAIZE BOYS INVITATIONAL THIRD PLACE

Maize 11 25 13 16-65
Mulvane 23 23 20 17-83

Maize--Pete Felder 12, Carl Soward 11, A J Schoen 7, John Shunatona 2, Robbie Helm 4, Troy Nicholson 8, Russell Neigenfind 23 FG 22-45, FT 21-31, F 25

Mulvane--Bo Jones 4, Lonny Travis 29, Buddy Moyer 5, David Belew 16, Greg Quigley 22, Aaron Huslig 5, Kevin Kasil 2 FG 33-66, FT 17-31, F 23

CHAMPIONSHIP

Pratt 68, Nickerson 41

CONSOLATION FIRST

Valley Center 48, Clearwater 46

CONSOLATION THIRD

Canton-Galva 63, Andale 54

SEMIFINALS

Nickerson 17 21 19 11-68

Mulvane 17 14 10 22-63

Nickerson--Steve Pope 4, Jim Henson 7, Skip White 4, Matt Lambert 5, Chris Stang 2, Alan Schneider 14, Garrick Foulk 7 FG 24-49, FT 20-27, F 18

Mulvane--David Belew 10, Greg Quigley 16, Aaron Huslig 9, Lonny Travis 16, Mike Rodgers 2, Bo Jones 2, Buddy Moyer 8 FG 28-72, FT 7-18, F 18

Pratt 69, Maize 52

Valley Center 56, Andale 33

Clearwater 79, Canton-Galva 52

Senior Lonny Travis headed up the scoring column for MHS, gunning in 29 points. Backcourters Greg Quigley scored 22 points and David Belew had 16.

Quigley also had seven rebounds and Buddy Moyer had six. Belew finished with nine assists.

"Lots of times, it's tough to beat the home team for third place," said Mason. "We got the press going and turnovers really hurt them. Quigley had a great tournament, he keeps coming in leaps and bounds."

In the loss to Nickerson, Mulvane simply waited too long to get it together. The Wildcats were behind by as many as 18 points in the third quarter but out-scored the Panthers, 22-11, in the last period, getting within three points one time.

Quigley had another fine game--16 points and six rebounds. The 6-foot-3 Travis also had 16 points. Center Aaron Huslig pulled down 10 rebounds and scored nine. Belew was the only other Cat in double figures with 10 points.

and Pratt's 6-foot-4 Steve Blankenship, who guided the Greenbacks to first place.

A third Mulvane senior, Greg Quigley, was named by the tourney's coaches to the second team along with Jeff Ramsey of Clearwater, Alan Schneider of Nickerson and Pratt's Brett Frantz and Ryan McCalla.