

Girls Prep For Trophy

A sticky defense inside and a dominating board game got the Mulvane High School girls off and running Monday, Jan. 22, in the first round of the annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic.

Coach Gregg Wolgast's Cats throttled Andover, 43-22, to begin their quest for the school's first tournament championship in its own tournament.

Other first-round games found No. 1 seeded Garden Plain rebounding from a 10-0 deficit to take the Derby junior varsity, 59-50; Circle hit 11 out of 12 4th quarter free throws to hold off Wellington, 51-48; and Winfield sizzled past Clearwater, 64-38. (See pairings for tonight's action.)

The Wildcats, faced with their first real chance of winning their own tourney, pulled away from Andover with a steady game featuring a strong defensive game keyed by the inside defense of junior Kendra Banzet and total domination on the backboards. "It was one of those games where you play just good enough to keep yourself out of trouble," emphasized Wolgast. "We played good enough to win. We didn't shoot the ball well but our defense carried us. Kendra had a tremendous ball game inside. The lane was her territory. She must have blocked seven or eight shots and did a great job on Andover's top scorer (Ketchel Stephenson). " Stephenson was held to only two points.

The Cats' domination on the boards was thorough, too. With junior Ticia Nicholson pulling down 14 caroms, Lisa Heersche grabbing nine and Banzet getting six, the Wildcats owned the boards, 40-22, often getting several shots each time down. The Cats finished with 17 offensive boards.

"That was a big factor, too," said Wolgast. "We didn't shoot the ball that good. Both Ticia and Tammy (Withrow) had off nights shooting the ball but we got the rebounds and put them back in. We got two or three shots at it all night long."

The game belonged to the Mulvane defense, though. If Banzet wasn't putting her stamp of approval on her territory, guards Tricia Turner, Withrow and Heersche and senior Nicole Infinger were buzzing around the court keeping the Trojans off-balance and befuddled.

"Our pressure defense in the second quarter got Andover on the run," said Wolgast. "We had some steals and at least two 10-second calls on them. It really bothered Andover." And that's when the Cats started pulling away after playing a 10-9 first quarter.

Banzet finished on top of the scoring charts for the Wildcats, hitting 16 points. Heersche scored in double figures for the second straight game with 10 points. Nicholson scored seven points and Turner scored six.

The Wildcats took another step toward a contending position in the Chisholm Trail League Friday night, Jan. 19, when they punched the lights out for winless Wellington, 49-34, with a fine showing.

The victory marched Wolgast's Cats out to 4-2 in the CTL and definitely kept the Cats in the thick of things along with Valley

Wildcat Girls Basketball Classic

FIRST ROUND

Andover	9	6	7	10-32
Mulvane	10	11	9	13-43
Andover—Lori Brooks 2, Becky Ward 10, Ketchel Stephenson 2, Janna Miller 2, Larissa Heath 13, Connie Smith 3. FG 14-46 (0), FT 4-12, F 14.				
Mulvane—Lisa Heersche 10, Tammy Withrow 4, Tricia Turner 6, Kendra Banzet 16, Ticia Nicholson 7. FG 18-46 (0), FT 7-21, F 13.				

Garden Plain 59, Derby JV 50
Circle 51, Wellington 48
Winfield 64, Clearwater 38

Wildcat Girls Classic Pairings

Tonight (Jan. 25)

- Game 5 — Derby JV vs. Clearwater, 4 p.m.
- Game 6 — Wellington vs. Andover, 5:30
- Game 7 — Garden Plain vs. Winfield, 7
- Game 8 — Circle vs. Mulvane, 8:30

Saturday, Jan. 27

- Game 9 (Seventh Place)—losers of games 5 and 6, 2:30 p.m.
- Game 10 (Fifth Place)—winners of games 5 and 6, 4
- Game 11 (Third Place)—losers of games 7 and 8, 5:30
- Game 12 (Championship)—winners of games 7 and 8, 8

Varsity Girls

Wellington	6	9	9	10-34
Mulvane	11	12	10	16-49
Wellington—Heather McAlister 4, Marci Brecheisen 7, Mari Stayton 4, Kelly Silcott 9, Deanna Hubbard 4, Anna Heimer 4, Andrea Pettigrew 2. FG 15-45 (0), FT 4-18, F 34.				
Mulvane—Lisa Heersche 10, Tricia Turner 8, Tammy Withrow 2, Kendra Banzet 19, Ticia Nicholson 6, Nicole Infinger 4. FG 19-41 (0), FT 11-20, F 19				

Junior Varsity Girls

Wellington	8	4	3	6-21
Mulvane	6	23	6	14-49
Wellington—Paula Vargas 6, Trista Smith 1, Lenca Tuttle 6, Andrea Pettigrew 8, Emily Bacon 0. FG 7-35 (0), FT 7-16, F 21.				
Mulvane—Tricia Turner 7, Tammy Withrow 2, Kern Taylor 9, Kim Rodriguez 8, Jenny Ray 2, Lisa Heersche 2, Dawn Hicks 11, Denise Wilson 8. FG 18-38 (0), FT 13-26, F 18.				

Center, Goddard and Augusta.

The Mulvane junior varsity also posted a victory, handling the Crusaders, 49-21, to run Coach Scott Swaney's record to 2-4 this season.

"We played pretty well for the most part," admitted Wolgast. "I was somewhat concerned about going in against a team that hasn't won a ball game. You worry about the intensity level, but the girls came out and did a good job. Wellington also came out fired up."

Mulvane also won the battle of the boards with a 38-25 edge there as tall center Kendra Banzet pulled down 14 caroms and guard Lisa Heersche had nine.

Top scorer was Banzet with 19 points. Heersche had 10 points and Tricia Turner scored eight and Nicole Infinger had four off the bench.

The Cat jayvees broke the game up with a 23-4 run in the second quarter and Wellington never recovered.

Dawn Hicks had her best game of the season, scoring 11 points with five rebounds. Guard Kerri Taylor scored nine points and both Kim Rodriguez and center Denise Wilson scored eight points (and had nine boards) to highlight a balanced scoring assault.