

Tourney Here

Girls March Into Semis

When the bell sounded to start the Mulvane Wildcat-Wellington Crusader game Monday night, Jan. 22, in the opening round of the 21st annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic, both coaches could have headed for the lunch room for dinner.

"Both teams had a pretty poor first half," pointed out Jayson Miller, the MHS cage coach. "I think both coaches could have taken a dinner break or something. There was just a lot of sloppy play."

Heck, there were only seven points total scored in the third quarter—please pass the catsup.

Mulvane snapped out of it in the second half, though and ate up the Crusaders in the last five minutes for a 42-31 triumph to move into tonight's championship semifinal against Garden Plain. The two will meet in the featured game at 7:45 p.m.

Garden Plain powered past Clearwater, 45-34, in the other Monday night opener. Arkansas City upset Andale, 45-38, in the first game Tuesday night, Jan. 23, and Campus plastered Andover, 51-32.

"It was a tale of two halves," said Miller of the opening round victory. "It was only 13-12 at halftime. We came out about as flat as you can come out. We stood around and didn't move. We weren't taking bad shots, we just weren't taking any shots. Everybody was standing around looking for somebody else to do something."

After Miller's lunch break—er, halftime, the Cats, who snapped a three-game skid with the victory, started piecing things together. They took the lead for good by out-scoring the Crusaders, 16-10, in the 3rd quarter and pulled away down the stretch behind some clutch free throwing. Jackie Burkhart slammed down two tosses in a row and Melissa Doerfer hit a pair to keep the Crusaders reeling in the final two minutes.

"Those were big and gave us some breathing room down the stretch," said Miller. "And I think Kris Lazar got behind them for a lay-up. They were in the hunt until late in the game. Wellington was trying to pressure us to get the ball back but we slipped a couple people behind them for long passes and an easy bucket or two."

Doerfer had a fine outing, scoring 12 points. Sami Booth and Lazar each finished with nine points, Burkhart scored five and reserve Andrea Valerio had four.

"We're happy to get a win," added Miller. "We've played hard the last couple of weeks and don't have anything to show for it, so we needed this one."

The Wildcat girls finished the toughest stretch of the season so far but had nothing to show for it except the experience of three straight defeats against outstanding foes. The latest came Friday night, Jan. 19, when a top-ranked Buhler squad hit town. The Wildcats and Crusaders battled in a tight one until the final minutes when Buhler pulled away behind a flurry of free throws for a 63-42 Chisholm Trail League road victory.

For Buhler, the win was No. 9 in 10 games this season. "Buhler is a great team," admitted Miller. "I thought we came out and played hard. It was kind of frustrating, though, because the score was a lot more than what the game was all about. It was a lot tighter until the final minutes when we were trying to foul to get the ball."

The Crusaders connected on 14 of 15 free throws in the 4th quarter to pull away.

"We did a good job, better than the last couple of games," added Miller. "I thought our offense looked better."

The Crusaders came out on a streak, blasting off to a 9-0 start, but the Wildcats, with Booth and Parker each hitting six points, had that gap closed to 20-15 by the first quarter mark. And Mulvane pulled to within four (38-34) in the third quarter by holding the Crusaders to only two points

Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic Pairings

TONIGHT (JAN 25)

Game 5 -- Wellington vs. Clearwater, main gym, 4 p.m.

Game 6 -- Andale vs. Andover, auxiliary gym, 4

Game 7 -- Arkansas City vs. Campus, main gym, 6

Game 8 -- Mulvane vs. Garden Plain, main gym, 7:45

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

Game 9 (Seventh Place)--losers of games 5 and 6, 2 p.m.

Game 10 (Fifth Place)--winners of games 5 and 6, 3:45

Game 11 (Third Place)--losers of games 7 and 8, 5:30

Game 12 (First Place)--winners of games 7 and 8, 7:30

Girls Classic Results

FIRST ROUND

Wellington 10 3 10 8-31
Mulvane 8 4 16 14-42
Wellington--Abbey Vargas 3, Erica Caudillo 4, Chery Clift 18, Amanda McQuinn 1, Elisea Avalos 5, FG 12 (1), FT 6-15, F

Mulvane--Jackie Burkhart 5, Melissa Doerfer 12, LaShelle Parker 3, Sami Booth 9, Andrea Valerio 4, Kris Lazar 9, FG 16 (0), FT 10-19, F

Garden Plain 45, Clearwater 34

Arkansas City 45, Andale 38

Campus 51, Andover 32

Varsity Girls

Buhler 20 14 7 19-63
Mulvane 15 9 10 8-42

Buhler--Pam Shelle 3, Christina Hering 6, Tannee Balerio 12, Annalisa Balerio 8, Amber Hein 9, Aubrey Cameron 17, Amy Preston 8, FG 19 (4), FT 21-31, F

Mulvane--Melissa Doerfer 3, Jackie Burkhart 4, Andrea Valerio 2, Sami Booth 10, Kris Lazar 9, LaShelle Parker 14, FG 11 (0), FT 20-34, F

Junior Varsity Girls

Buhler 13 15 19 9-56
Mulvane 3 8 4 9-24

Buhler--Fast 12, Hodges 10, Carney 4, Ronen 14, Wildin 9, T. Balerio 5, Gamble 2, FG 26 (1), FT 3-10, F 14

Mulvane--Emily Turner 9, Cristin Richards 4, Lacie Leatherman 5, Janie Wilkinson 5, Michelle Dinkel 2, FG 10 (1), FT 3-10, F 14

Mulvane 6 8 6 11-31
Andale 19 16 12 9-56

Mulvane--Michelle Dinkel 8, Kayla Linnebur 2, Janie Wilkinson 4, Cristin Richards 3, Emily Turner 7, Shayna Duncan 6, Lacie Leatherman 2, FG 15 (0), FT 2-6, F 19

Andale--Emily Eck 3, Shelly Lins 8, Heidi Hein 4, Andrea Sigg 4, Morgan Liebe 17, Paige Stump 7, Julie Weber 2, Amber Hoheisel 3, Ali Stevens 8, FG 25 (0), FT 3-11, F 10

Mulvane Sports

before Buhler exploded in the last minute to re-open a seven-point gap heading into the final stanza.

"We had a lot more focus as a team than we did at Andale and that's what I was pleased about," said Miller. "We're still trying to learn some things about our team and our offense. When you face a team that is as talented as Buhler, you have to cut down their shots and we didn't do that. They got off 20 more shots than we did and that really brought us down."

Parker finished with 14 points and Booth scored 10. Kris Lazar scored nine points and Jackie Burkhart scored four for Mulvane.

In the junior varsity outing, Buhler was all over Coach Mike Heater's girls in a 56-24 drubbing. The Crusader JVs pulled ahead by 10 in the 1st quarter and put the game away in the 3rd period when they out-scored the Cats, 19-4.

Emily Turner lead the MHS scoring with nine points. Teammates Lacie Leatherman and Janie Wilkinson scored five points each and Cristin Richards scored four.