

Mulvane Gals Throttle Wellington

Clearwater withstood three charges by Mulvane High School to hang on for a 56-36 victory Tuesday night, Jan. 24, in the semi-final round of the annual Wildcat Girls Classic held at the MHS gym.

The Indians marched into the championship game at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, while the MHS girls will be playing for third place at 5:15 Saturday.

In the late game Tuesday, Wellington waxed Andover, 48-32.

"We came out flat and you can't afford to do that against a team as good as Clearwater," said Gregg Wolgast, the Cats girls coach. "We made a run at them in each quarter but never could get it under the six-to-eight-point range, we never could get over the hump."

Sophomore Kendra Banzet scored a game-high 23 points around the basket for Mulvane. Senior Nancy Farber came through for five points and Kim Rodriguez added four.

The Wildcats opened the tournament Monday night, Jan. 23, by spearing Wellington for the second time this season, 59-53, playing some of their best ball of the campaign.

Garden Plain and Winfield also advance to the winner's bracket, Garden Plain romping past Andover, 38-17, and Winfield tackling Circle, 56-46.

The key for Mulvane, according to Wolgast, was the turnaround on the boards. "We kept them off the boards," noted Wolgast, whose club hammered out a 48-25 edge on the backboards. "The last time we played (a Wellington victory), we gave up 16 points off the offensive rebounds. We gave them only one bucket off the offensive boards Monday night and that really was the difference. We stressed going into the game that everybody

check off their person under the boards and the girls did a tremendous job."

Ticia Nicholson led the MHS girls with 12 rebounds. Kendra Banzet and Missi Mathews each had eight boards.

The excellent board play enabled the Cats to pull ahead early. The Crusaders led after one quarter but Mulvane out-scored Wellington, 14-6, to take the lead for good in the second stanza. Mulvane made it 43-28 after three periods as they took charge.

"We played a very good over-all ball game, too," added Wolgast. "We executed and did just about everything we had to do to win. We ran the offense and got the shots we wanted, and we knocked those shots down. And late in the game, we didn't fold under the pressure."

Wellington climbed back into semi-

convention late in the game by making three three-point shots but it wasn't enough. "They put some full-court pressure on us and we handled it pretty decently," said Wolgast. "We had a turnover or two but nothing like we've had in some of our previous games. Kristin Kuntz came in after Banzet fouled out in the fourth quarter and did a great job helping us break the press by getting the ball to the right people. Nancy Farber also stood out for us. She provided some good leadership and made the right passes and was a steadying influence down the stretch."

The sophomore Banzet pumped in 16 points and Nicholson scored 15 to give the Cats a good one-two punch. Guard Lisa Heersche, another sophomore, scored nine points, and Farber had eight.

WILDCAT GIRLS CLASSIC

Semifinal

Mulvane 5 9 12 10-36

Clearwater 16 11 12 17-56

Mulvane—Nancy Farber 5, Kim Rodriguez 4, Kendra Banzet 23, Ticia Nicholson 2, Kerri Taylor 2. FG 17-47 (0), FT 2-5, F 15.

Clearwater—Gina Hoover 5, Kristi York 14, Rachelle Duncan 21, Tiffany Goldston 4, Donna Bibby 6, Christi Leibold 6. FG 23-44 (0), FT 10-18, F 11.

Cancellation Round Robin

Wellington 48, Andover 32

First Round

Wellington 12 8 10 25-53

Mulvane 11 14 18 18-59

Wellington—Marcie Brecheisen 19, Marti Stayton 10, Deanna Hubbard 10, Anna Helmer 9, Dabbie Nickel 4, Heather Smith 1. FG 18-55 (3), FT 14-21, F 23.

Mulvane—Kendra Banzet 16, Ticia Nicholson 15, Lisa Heersche 9, Nancy Farber 8, Missi Mathews 5, Kim Rodriguez 4, Jenny Ray 1. FG 23-55 (0), FT 13-24, F 18.

Garden Plain 38, Andover 17

Winfield 56, Circle 46

WILDCAT GIRLS CLASSIC PAIRINGS

Tonight (Jan. 28)

Game 6 — Andover vs. Circle, 8:15 p.m.

Game 7 — Garden Plain vs. Winfield, 8

Saturday, Jan. 29

Game 8 — Wellington vs. Circle, 3:30 p.m.

Game 9 (Third Place)—Mulvane vs. loser of game

7, 5:15

Game 10 (Championship)—Clearwater vs. winner

of game 7, 8