

Golly! Wildcat Girls Are No. 1



Crowd converges on MHS girls cagers as gun sounds in championship game

It may have taken 11 years, but it was worth the wait.

After 10 years of standing on the outside looking in at the championship presentation, the Mulvane High School girls went for the gusto Saturday night, Jan. 26, and won their own tournament for the first time.

The Cats held off a late rally by Kapaun Mt. Carmel Saturday night to dance away with the championship, 51-45, ending two years of domination by Garden Plain, the defending champ in 1990 and 1989.

The Wildcats marched to the title game by turning back Winfield, 52-49, Thursday night, Jan. 24, in a semifinal game while Kapaun ended Garden Plain's "three-peat" plans, 69-57.

Garden Plain rebounded to take third place, 51-46, Saturday, Wellington nabbed 5th place, beating Circle, 44-41, and 7th place went to Andover, a 63-52 winner over Clearwater.

"It was a big win for us," said Gregg Wolgast, whose Wildcats had to settle for second place last year. "The girls played hard throughout the tournament and never gave up. In the last two games, both opponents made runs at us but the girls came back and did whatever was necessary to defeat the situation."

The Cats, who raised their record to 9-3, were back-sliding a bit against Kapaun in the championship after losing a first half lead which was eight points at one time. Physical Kapaun applied the pressure and regained the lead going into the last quarter, 33-31.

Junior playmaker Tricia Turner, who had played erratically early, was outstanding down the stretch, crunch time. Her key passes and dribbling in the last three minutes enabled the Wildcats to break the press for some easy buckets. Senior Lisa Heersche also came alive at the same time, scoring nine of her 11 points in the last period.

A Heersche bank shot from the right side with 1:36 left put Mulvane back ahead, 44-43, and moments later, a Heersche steal led to Turner going to the line on an intentional foul. She made both with 1:00 showing and moments later, she made three of four as the Cats pulled away before Heersche's lay-up off a fine Turner pass ended the game.

Banzet, Heersche Named Tourney All-Stars

Two Mulvane High School seniors, frontliners Lisa Heersche and Kendra Banzet, were named to the Mulvane Girls Classic All-Star first team following the ending of the tournament in the MHS gym Saturday night, Jan. 26.

The two were the leading scorers for the Wildcats in their three-game run to the tournament championship, the school's first in its own tournament. The championship also snapped a two-year stay by Garden Plain, which won back-to-back classic titles in 1989 and 1990. Ironically, the Owls this year won third place but still had three players named to the all-tourney team.

Heersche finished with 12 points a game, including 11 in the championship victory over Kapaun, but many of those 11 were key points in the second half. She scored nine in the 4th quarter. The 6-foot, 3-inch Banzet paced Mulvane with 53 points scored but her defense was critical in the title game. She blocked at least five shots and intimidated the Crusaders inside.

Garden Plain's trio of all-stars served notice that the Owls will be a force in the future as sophomores Katie Panek and Carmen Lafferty were selected from GP as was junior Lena Panek.

Runner-up Kapaun Mt. Carmel also had two players named to the all-tourney squad, freshman guard Kim Martin and senior Stephanie Wilkins.

The other all-tournament players selected were Winfield's Hope McPherson and Stacy Neal and Shana Carter of Circle.

There were only four seniors selected. In addition to Heersche and Banzet, the seniors were McPherson and Wilkins.

"Turner really did a great job running our break and seeing the floor," said Wolgast. "She was real tight early but got into the game made some fine passes on the press."

Wolgast noted the real secret, though, was Mulvane making its free throws in the clutch. Mulvane made seven of eight down the stretch against Kapaun. Two nights earlier in a near carbon copy victory over Winfield, the Wildcats went 6-for-6 with Turner, Heersche and senior Kendra Banzet each hitting a pair.

Banzet, a three-time tournament all-star, led the Wildcats with 22 points even though the Crusaders shut her down after an 18-point first half by surrounding her. She also had seven blocked shots and 15 rebounds. Heersche finished with 11 points, Turner had nine points, hitting 7-of-10 from the stripe, and senior Ticia Nicholson had six points, 12 rebounds and blocked four shots.

The Wildcats also controlled the inside game against Winfield with Banzet pulling down 10 boards, Kerri Taylor claiming seven, including four offensive boards; and both Heersche and Nicholson grabbing six.

"In a lot of ways, the Winfield and Kapaun games were very similar," said Wolgast. "It was back and fourth most of the way and in the fourth quarter, we hit the free throws down the stretch. Turner had two off an intentional foul, Lisa had a couple and Kendra had a couple."

The shot by Turner was really critical because the Vikings had just closed the gap

Varsity Girls				
Mulvane	18	17	22	11-68
Maize	10	8	13	15-46
Mulvane—Kerri Taylor 11, Lisa Heersche 9, Ticia Nicholson 20, Kendra Banzet 26, Kristen Kuntz 2. FG 29-54 (0), FT 10-18, F 16.				
Maize—Jenny Schuster 15, Meredith Wittmer 4, Cheri Dunkle 7, Michelle Marling 11, Hope Dent 6. FG 17-40 (0), FT 15-21, F 11.				

Junior Varsity Girls				
Mulvane	7	4	8	16-35
Maize	2	12	12	19-46
Mulvane—Deva Lewis 2, Robin Smith 4, Sheila Mills 20, Dawn Hicks 9, Kandie Strong 0. FG 16-33 (0), FT 3-8, F 19.				
Maize—T. Myrick 14, Hunt 0, S. Myrick 10, Martinez 12, Pivanka 2, Koonis 8. FG 14-56 (0), FT 18-24, F 12.				



to only one point. Turner's two charities and the ball put the MHS girls back in control. Overall, Mulvane had one of its best free throwing nights ever, hitting 16 of 21.

Back in league action Tuesday night, Jan. 29, the Cats had little trouble downing Maize, 68-46, in a CTL game at Maize.

Banzet pumped in 26 points and Nicholson scored 20 while Kerri Taylor added 11. Heersche scored the other nine points but junior guard Turner set a school assist record with 14 assists.

In the junior varsity game, Sheila Mills scored 20 points and Dawn Hicks had nine but the Cats tumbled, 46-35, to the Eagle jayvees.

Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic Results

CHAMPIONSHIP				
Mulvane	8	16	7	20-51
Kapaun Mt. Carmel	10	8	15	12-45
Mulvane—Tricia Turner 9, Kendra Banzet 22, Kerri Taylor 1, Ticia Nicholson 6, Lisa Heersche 11, Dawn Hicks 2. FG 18-44 (0), FT 15-23, F 8.				
Kapaun—Kim Martin 10, Lisa Rhoden 6, Stephanie Wilkins 12, Tina Buckner 4, Heather Powers 4, Casey Jones 9. FG 21-55 (1), FT 2-3, F 21.				

THIRD PLACE				
Garden Plain 51, Winfield 46				
FIFTH PLACE				
Wellington 44, Circle 41				
SEVENTH PLACE				
Andover 63, Clearwater 52				

SEMIFINALS				
Mulvane	11	12	13	16-52
Winfield	9	12	16	12-49
Mulvane—Ticia Nicholson 6, Lisa Heersche 17, Kendra Banzet 22, Tricia Turner 4, Kerri Taylor 2, Dawn Hicks 1. FG 18-40 (0), FT 16-21, F 11.				
Winfield—Stacy Neal 6, Hope McPherson 10, Kim Jennings 12, Sarah Holdeman 7, Adriene Taylor 8, Pham Phouthavoung 6. FG 22-48 (1), FT 4-7, F 17.				

Kapaun Mt. Carmel 69, Garden Plain 57				
Wellington 39, Clearwater 31				
Circle 54, Andover 44				