

Wildcat Girls Have Moments; Andover Has The Hardware

For Mulvane High School first-year coach Kelly Dennis, improvement is measured in moments, and she feels her Wildcat girls had theirs last week during the 16th annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic.

The Wildcats finished last in the eight-team field, bowing, 61-55, to Wellington Saturday afternoon, Jan. 27, in the seventh place game. Coupled with flashes of fine play in the two earlier games, the game has given Dennis hope that progress is being made.

Mulvane started the tournament against No. 1 seeded and undefeated Andover. The Trojans pounded Mulvane, 82-46, but the Cats "played well." In a semifinal game Thursday, Jan. 25, Mulvane lost a slender lead late in the game and Campus pulled away for a 51-43 triumph.

Andover won the tournament championship Saturday night, trouncing previously undefeated Garden Plain, a 2A power, 91-69, and Arkansas City downed Andale, 61-50, for third place.

"I thought we played pretty solid all three games," said Dennis, whose club dipped to 1-12 for the season, "but we never played a complete game. Parts of our game were very, very good. We struggled in the fourth quarter in a couple of our games, but we played real good for about 3 1/2 quarters against Campus and we were coming back against Wellington but just didn't make some key free throws in the last few minutes."

The MHS girls out-scored Wellington, 21-18, to make a pitch to win the game but free throws down the stretch wouldn't fall and the Crusaders pulled away.

"We also missed some outside shots, some open shots on the perimeter," noted Dennis. "When we got the ball, worked it around and into the post people, usually something good came out of it. We lack patience, it seems. We get in a hurry. Sometimes I feel like the girls feel they have to pass the ball or get rid of it quickly when we really need to be more patient and work the ball inside."

The inside game was cooking for the Cats, too, and for the entire tournament.

Senior Janelle Wenke, who had three straight double-figure games for the first time this season, scored a team-high 14 points against Wellington and her frontline mate, Dannelle Hughes, a junior, added 13. Reserve guard Michelle Fowler had a hot hand from the outside, scoring 10 points and both Crissy Carpenter and Lee Cates finished with four points.

Mulvane was within three points of Wellington with under a minute to play and had to start fouling. Wellington cashed in at the charity stripe and won the game.

Mulvane also played it tough against Campus. The Colts held a one-point lead going into the final eight minutes and pulled things together behind their standout, Kristy Tabor, who had eight fourth-quarter points.

"Campus was our best game," said Dennis. "We played a box-and-one against Tabor and Carrie Burkhart did a great job on her but a couple of turnovers late in the game hurt us. We also got a bunch of inside shots and didn't hit them. We kind of went the wrong direction with about two minutes left in the game and they made a couple of uncontested lay-ups that really broke our backs."

Against the Colts, shooting was the Cats' biggest problem. They couldn't do it. "The shots just weren't falling against Campus," said Dennis. "When we worked the ball and got the good shots, they were going in but we didn't do enough of that." Mulvane managed only eight points in the last quarter.

Wenke had another big game. She scored 17 points, including 12 in the first half. Hughes checked in with 13 points. Freshman Lindsay Kendrick scored five points and Cates had four.

The host Cats, seeded 8th, had to play top-seeded Andover in the opener, which was delayed one night until Wednesday, Jan. 24, because of bad weather, and it was no contest after the first quarter. Andover, with all-state guard Susan Woolf, rolled out to a 19-9 lead in the first quarter, then broke the game up by extending its lead to 19

points by halftime.

"We actually played a great game against Andover," said Dennis. "They came out and got right on us, 11-0, but the rest of the first half we played them pretty even. Our post players were putting the ball in the bucket and our wing players were getting the ball inside. Everything was clicking on offense. We just couldn't get a stop on their offense. In the second half, they turned the pressure up and pulled away.

"Unfortunately, we didn't put together a complete game. That's something we're going to have to do if we want to compete with the other teams in our league."

Hughes had her biggest game of the tourney, scoring 16 points. Wenke finished with 11, Burkhart scored six and Cates had five points.

The Wildcat girls hit the non-league trail Tuesday night, Jan. 30, entertaining Derby and the Panthers left town with a 56-45 verdict.

Derby had a whirlwind start, running out to a 16-3 lead after one quarter and Dennis' troops never could make up the deficit.

"That first quarter really kills us," emphasized the Wildcat coach. "They came out quickly and really came after us. We kind of went back in our shell instead of taking it to them. And their press gave us a little trouble. In the second and third quarters, though, we started running our offense and they got into foul trouble, which helped lead to some good shots and we were able to make a game of it. We also picked it up defensively and played a lot better."

The 1-13 Wildcats out-scored Derby the next two quarters to cut the gap to five points, 37-32, at the end of three frames but the Panthers, behind some outstanding three-point shooting, were able to hold on. "We were making a pretty good comeback but the one girl nailed five threes and that really hurt the effort," said Dennis. "It's nice to get back in a game and make it close (Mulvane cut the lead to four points) in these games, but it's also frustrating that we can't get one."

Hughes continued to show a hot hand offensively, scoring 16 points. Janelle Wenke dumped in eight points, Anna Wenke had six and Burkhart finished with five points.

The Wildcat girls will be at home and back in the CTL Friday night, Feb. 2, when they entertain Kingman on homecoming night.

Wildcat Girls Basketball Classic

SEVENTH PLACE

Wellington	8	18	18	17-61
Mulvane	4	15	21	15-55

Wellington—Tracie Strothman 15, Tracy Bertrand 12, Stacy Hamilton 9, Brandi Fliaram 10, Tara Strothman 8, Kechia Griffin 2, Heather Elkins 12, Megan Crisler 3, Kim Graves 1. FG 15 (2), FT 25-38, F 22

Mulvane—Carrie Burkhart 2, Crissy Carpenter 4, Lindsay Kendrick 3, Michelle Fowler 10, Lee Cates 4, Janelle Wenke 14, Anna Wenke 3, Dannelle Hughes 13. FG

FIRST PLACE

Andover 91, Garden Plain 69

THIRD PLACE

Arkansas City 61, Andale 50

FIFTH PLACE

Clearwater 61, Campus 58

SEMIFINALS

Campus	11	17	8	15-51
Mulvane	8	19	8	8-43

Campus—Stephanie Willig 8, Desiree Brotzky 8, Kristy Tabor 22, April Johnson 6, Alisha Seiber 3, Katja Kiseljak 2, Haley Lemons 2. FG 21 (0), FT 9-13, F 16.

Mulvane—Carrie Burkhart 2, Crissy Carpenter 2, Lindsay Kendrick 5, Lee Cates 4, Dannelle Hughes 13, Janelle Wenke 17. FG 19 (1), FT 4-12, F 17.

Clearwater 68, Wellington 50

Andover 72, Andale 48

Garden Plain 60, Arkansas City 48

FIRST ROUND

Andover	19	26	22	15-82
Mulvane	9	17	11	9-46

Andover—Susan Wolf 27, Jana Lee 13, Codie Knott 13, Cassie Blair 7, Beth Woodman 14, Breanna Chapman 2, Andi Riddle 2, Triaha Kincaid 4. FG 26 (5), FT 15-25, F 17.

Mulvane—Janelle Wenke 11, Anna Wenke 2, Dannelle Hughes 16, Carrie Burkhart 6, Crissy Carpenter 4, Lee Cates 5, Nichelle Bruce 2. FG 19 (0), FT 8-12, F 21.

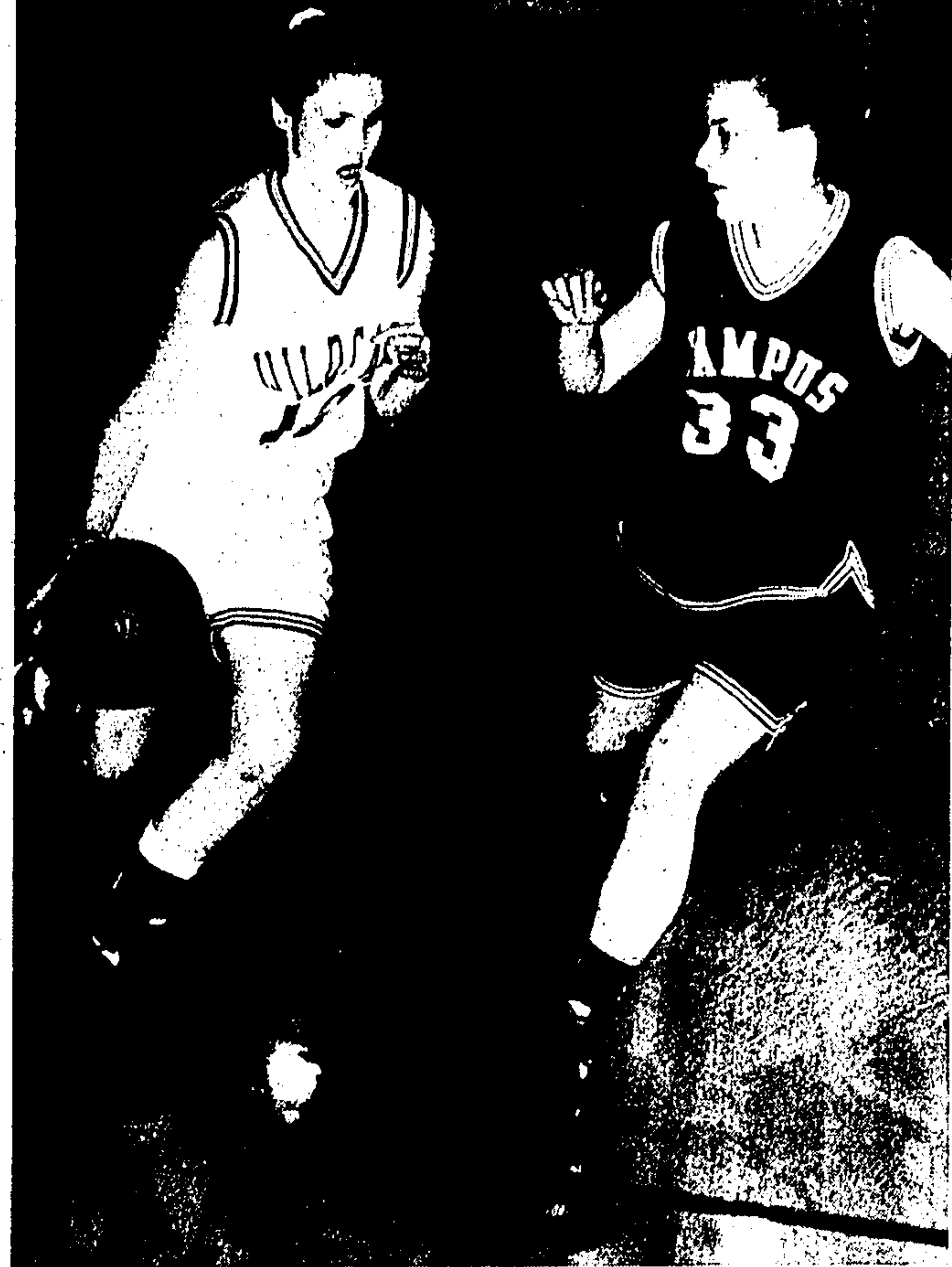
Andale 66, Campus 50

Regular Season

Derby	16	14	7	19-56
Mulvane	3	17	12	13-45

Derby—Staci Buchanan 12, Jamie Ruff 4, Suzanne Kerr 7, Karisa Miller 5, Lisa Rhodes 3, Michelle Watton 24, Pam Michels 1. FG 19 (5), FT 13-22, F 29.

Mulvane—Michelle Fowler 3, Carrie Burkhart 5, Nichelle Bruce 3, Lindsay Kendrick 2, Lee Cates 2, Anna Wenke 6, Dannelle Hughes 16, Janelle Wenke 8. FG 15 (1), FT 14-29, F 17.



Sophomore Michelle Fowler (10) dribbles to the basket against Campus

MHS's Hughes Named To Tourney Star Team

Seven seniors, led by "four-peat" star Susan Woolf of Andover, left their stamp on the 1996 Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic this year and were named to the All-Tournament Team announced following the championship game Saturday night, Jan. 27, at the MHS gym.

Mulvane's representative on the all-tourney team was a junior, however. Dannelle Hughes, a 5-foot, 9-inch junior, was selected to the tournament all-stars. She was joined by juniors Jodi Rausch of Garden Plain and Kristy Tabor of Campus, two of the tournament's top scorers.

Seniors selected to the elite grouping included the guard Woolf of Andover, Codie Knott of Andover, Amy Fisher of Garden Plain, Katie Campbell of Clearwater, Katie Eck of Andale, Deanna Linder of Arkansas City and Lindsay Morgan, also of Arkansas City.

Woolf became the first player selected to the all-tourney star unit for the fourth straight year and also led the tournament in scoring for the fourth consecutive time. She scored 97 in pacing the Trojans to their second tournament title in three years.

The other top award given out during the tournament, the C.V. Hartung Award, went to Amy Fisher of Garden Plain. The award goes to the player demonstrating sportsmanship, hustle, hard work, determination and loyalty.

Woolf capped a four-year show in the 16th annual Mulvane classic, re-setting a career scoring record of 397 career points as she became the only four-time all-tournament selection. In fact, there have been only three players who have made the all-tournament team three times—Mulvane's Kendra Banzet (1989, 1990, 1991), Janay Vulgamore of Clearwater (1987, 1988, 1989) and Rausch (1994, 1995 and 1996)