

'Growing Experience' Nets Girls 7th Place

Andover, Andale Dominate All-Tourney; Parker Picked

It didn't take long for Mulvane High School girls basketball coach Jayson Miller to put a positive spin on the Mulvane girls' 1-2 showing in the 20th annual Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic, which ended Saturday, Jan. 29, with a flurry of games.

The Cats finished 7th, dumping Clearwater, 53-26, in the 7th place game. It came after two disappointing losses in the first and second rounds during which the Wildcats didn't play their best ball.

"The tournament was definitely a growing experience," said Miller. "It gave us a chance to deal with adversity. I kind of liked

that situation. That's what mid-season tournaments are all about, dealing with adversity and working on getting ready to play different teams, which comes in handy at the end of the year at tournament time."

The Wildcats got their feet under them in the final contest, which was played Saturday afternoon. The tournament had eight games on Saturday because Friday's four semifinal games were postponed by snow. Playing their best ball of the tourney, the Cats strolled past Clearwater with their best effort.

Andover won the Classic championship

for the second year in a row, sidetracking Andale, 48-39. Arkansas City finished third by putting the squeeze on Garden Plain, 41-38. Campus undercut Wellington, 60-48, for fifth place.

In a semifinal game Saturday morning, Mulvane struggled in the second half and allowed Wellington to rally for a 48-40 victory. The other semifinals found Campus swamping Clearwater, 54-38; Andover snipping Garden Plain, 50-49, and Andale moving into the title game by edging Ark City, 31-30.

"We started moving the ball more effectively against Clearwater and we also took care of the ball better," pointed out Miller, whose Cats tumbled to 5-7 overall. "I wasn't unhappy with it, though, because I thought it was a good learning experience. I know the girls felt like they were better than a 7th place team and I know I did, too. There are just some things, though, that the girls have to figure out on their own. And it was good because we got to play a lot of different people. If nothing else, it helped our depth."

Mulvane blasted off in the 2nd quarter against the Indians, running up a 17-7 quarter to take the lead at halftime, and they put it away in the last quarter with another spurt.

Senior Arin Leonard and sophomore Kris Lazar paced the scoring with 11 and 12 points, respectively. Center LaShelle Parker scored six points, Jackie Burkhart and Kari Leonard scored five and guards Emily Turner and Melissa Doerfer, a freshman who made her first varsity start, along with Andrea Valerio, hit four points each.

The semifinal against Wellington was the biggest disappointment for the Cats, who appeared to have the game in control in the first half as they led all the way but after intermission, things changed. Momentum pitched back to the Crusaders, who outscored Mulvane, 16-6, in the third quarter and 19-5 in the fateful fourth.

"We controlled the game for nearly three quarters but Wellington turned up the intensity in the second half and we didn't match it," said Miller. "They were more aggressive."

And the mistakes came. "Once they grabbed the momentum, we kind of got sloppy with our passes and we were trying to make passes that weren't within our offensive system," noted Miller. "You have to do what you can be successful at and we started getting away from it. It was one of those games where you play not to lose it and that's exactly what you do. When they turned it up a notch, we didn't stay calm and do what we can do best and they took advantage of that."

And it didn't help to go cold at the free throw stripe, either. Mulvane made only 8-for-21 at the stripe. Wellington actually won the game at the line, making 16 of 24 throws.

Before intermission, Mulvane was controlling the tempo of the game, getting the ball inside the paint for good shots and playing solid defense. The Crusaders started doing their thing in the second half and ral-

lied successfully.

Parker packed the punch for the MHS offense, scoring 12 points. Lazar and Andrea Valerio off the bench had eight points each and Arin Leonard scored six.

Mulvane opened the tournament with a struggle. Andover showed them why the Trojans were on their way to the top.

"We really didn't play a very good ball game against Andover," stressed Miller. "You have to give them credit. They came out and dominated us from the get-go. It was like one of our worst games this year. They did a good job of moving the ball around the perimeter and taking care of the ball. They got the ball to the right players in position to score."

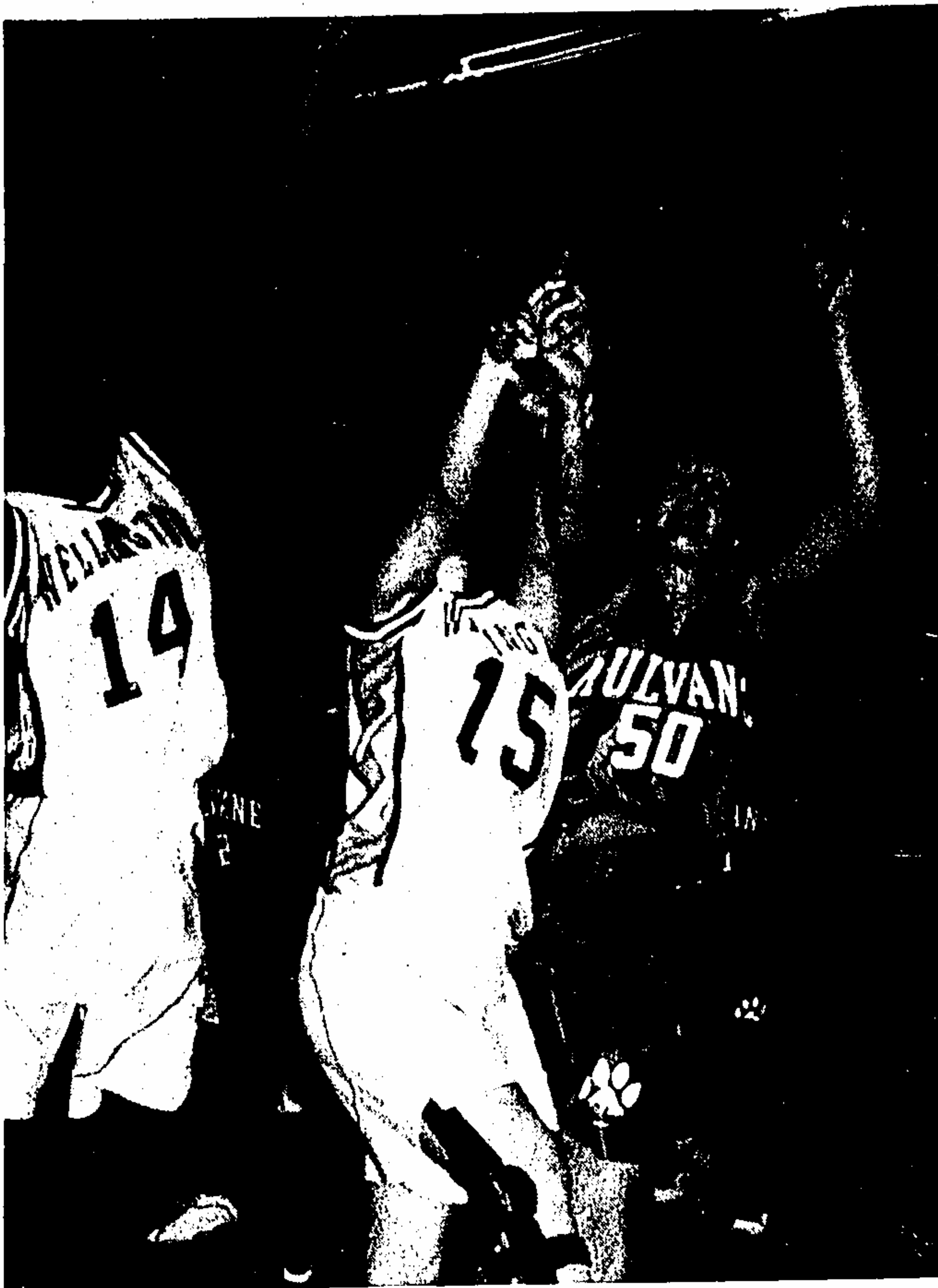
It's the kind of game plan Miller would have welcomed against Wellington in the second half.

The Wildcats will be home Friday night, Feb. 4, to take part in the annual MHS Winter Homecoming. Chaparral will be in town. The girls play at about 6:15 p.m. Homecoming festivities will be conducted during the break between the girls and boys varsity games.

Chisholm Trail League Girls Basketball Standings

Team	League		Overall
	W	L	
Andale	6	0	10-3
Kingman	4	2	9-4
Mulvane	3	3	5-8
Clearwater	3	3	3-8
Circle	3	3	4-10
Chaparral	1	3	4-10
Rose Hill	1	5	4-10

Team	League		Overall
	W	L	
Buhler	6	1	14-1
Maze	4	1	7-4
Goddard	4	2	9-3
Andover	3	3	9-5
Valley Center	3	3	7-6
Augusta	1	5	6-8
Wellington	0	6	3-10



Sophomore Chris Lazar battles for a rebound against Wellington

20th Mulvane Wildcat Girls Classic Results

SEVENTH PLACE

Clearwater 6 7 12 11 36
 Mulvane 6 17 11 19 53
 Clearwater—Carina Richardson 12, Jen Burch 3, Brenda Davis 4, Robyn Gerlach 7, Jackie Ray 2, Erin Leger 4, Jamie Bertsen 4. FG 11 (2), FT 12 28, F 24.
 Mulvane—Arin Leonard 11, LaShelle Parker 6, Kris Lazar 12, Emily Turner 4, Kari Leonard 5, Jackie Burkhart 5, Carissa Ward 2, Andrea Valerio 4, Sami Booth 2, Melissa Doerfer 4. FG 20 (2), FT 11 23, F 23.

FIRST PLACE

Andover 48, Andale 39

THIRD PLACE

Arkansas City 41, Garden Plain 38

FIFTH PLACE

Campus 60, Wellington 48

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 15 14 6 5-40
 Wellington 8 15 16 19-48
 Mulvane—Kris Lazar 8, Andrea Valerio 8, Arin Leonard 6, LaShelle Parker 12, Carissa Ward 4, Sami Booth 2. FG 15 (2), FT 8-21, F 20.
 Wellington—Cherry Clift 13, Mandi Miller 7, Elizabeth Rinehart 3, Stasha McClure 8, Hollie Meeker 2, Kristin Cooper 3, Amanda Vargas 4, Julie Avalos 8. FG 15 (2), FT 16-24, F 18.
 Campus 54, Clearwater 38
 Andover 50, Garden Plain 49
 Andale 31, Arkansas City 30