

Wildcat Girls Go Wild

The effort should have been reserved for a Friday the 13th or a Halloween.

In an almost mystical game, the Mulvane High School girls closed out a disappointing run to seventh place in its own tournament Saturday afternoon, Feb. 1, by burying Clearwater in record fashion.

The Wildcats gunned down the Indians, 77-49, setting a school record for most points scored by the girls. And that comes during a season of futility. Mulvane has been averaging 39 points a game through the first 13 games but the Cats got it going for a record 77 to take 7th place.

The first-place trophy went to Winfield, which slipped past Circle, 58-53, in overtime.

"I can't explain it," said Wolgast. "I wish I could. We had noticed the girls weren't taking enough shots to win a ball game, so we just told them go out and shoot the ball, shoot the ball if they were open. That's what they did, and some of them started falling. I think that gave the girls the confidence they have needed."

The previous record was 70 points scored by the Cats in 1984 in the Maize Tournament against Nickerson in a 70-48

out. The victory snapped Mulvane's 11-game losing streak and improved the MHS girls to 2-12 for the year.

"In practice, we shoot the ball pretty well, both Coach (Marlene) Mangus and myself thought we were just getting too deliberate with the ball and thinking about it too much. That has caused everybody to tighten up," said Wolgast. "We told them to forget about it and go on out and take the shots when they were open. And if it didn't work out, to forget about it."

There wasn't much to forget about as the Wildcats made the Indians look sad by shooting 32 of 52 from the field, 62%, which was obviously Mulvane's best shooting of the season. That was also enough to set a tournament record for points scored.

"I think we got off to a big start and were having a lot of success early," admitted Wolgast. "We just kept building on it."

Indeed they did. With seniors Denise Wilson and Tricia Turner hot early—Turner making several baskets off steals and Wilson dominating on the boards—the Wildcats pounded out to a 20-9 lead after one quarter and were riding a 42-27 half-time lead. And it never got better for the

Indians as Mulvane racked up more points than it did in the two previous tourney games combined.

"We were getting the ball up the floor quickly, getting it inside and getting the good shots," said Wolgast. "Sheila (Mills) went wild in the second half because she was always getting the ball in great position."

Mills was Mulvane's top scorer, hitting a career-high 29 points. That included making 8-for-11 from the field in the second half.

Wilson and Turner had their top games, too. Wilson scored 17 points and Turner garnered 16. Next for the Cats were Lee Banzet with six points and Stephanie Schultz with four.

"Hopefully, we can build on that performance," said Wolgast. "We have talked about needing confidence. I don't anticipate playing like this every night but it was a good confidence builder."

Wolgast will find out Friday night, Feb. 7, if the confidence level is still high. Buhler will be coming to town for a Chisholm Trail League contest.

In a semifinal game in the tournament, Wellington delivered a 54-36 knockout blow to the Cats in a game played Thursday

afternoon, Jan. 30.

The Crusaders went on an early spree, rolling out to a 22-7 lead after one quarter and the Wildcats never could get back on the beam, trailing much of the second half by more than 15.

Wilson scored 20 points and Mills had nine. Turner finished with four.

"The Wellington game was just about the opposite," pointed out Wolgast. "We didn't do a good job getting the shots. Everybody was real tentative. And defensively, we played one of our worst games. It was right up there with our worst, anyway. We just stood around in the first half."

Wilson had a big outing and was the only bright spot for the Cats. She also had 17 rebounds.

"We picked it up in the second half but we were too far down," said Wolgast. "We went to a full-court man-to-man defense and it got us moving. We also had a lot more intensity and that might have carried over into the Clearwater game."

Wildcat Girls Classic Results

SEVENTH PLACE

Clearwater	9	18	12	10-49
Mulvane	20	22	19	16-77

Clearwater—Emilee Hostetler 8, Priscilla Hostetler 3, Rebecca Keller 17, Jennifer Pelz 3, Jamie Walker 10, Aimey Marchant 5, Kerri Barrow 3. FG 16-28 (2), FT 15-30, F 22.

Mulvane—Sheila Mills 29, Denise Wilson 17, Tricia Turner 16, Stephanie Schultz 4, Lee Banzet 6, Kendra Mow 2, Marianne Smyser 3. FG 32-52 (0), FT 13-22, F 28.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Winfield 58, Circle 53 (OT)

THIRD PLACE

Garden Plain 49, Wichita South 42

FIFTH PLACE

Wellington 46, Andover 33

SEMIFINALS

Wellington	22	11	15	6-54
Mulvane	7	8	14	7-36

Wellington—Lenea Tuttle 3, Heather McAlister 18, Kelly Silcott 21, Concilla Griffin 8, Sam Bertrand 3, Alia Horn 1. FG 23-46 (1), FT 7-15, F 18.

Mulvane—Tricia Turner 4, Heather Pearman 2, Kristi McDowell 1, Denise Wilson 20, Sheila Mills 9. FG 14-28 (0), FT 8-18, F 18.

Andover 63, Clearwater 48

Winfield 43, Wichita South 41

Circle 60, Garden Plain 56 (2 OT)