

Best To Worst

# Girls Crumble At Wellington

It was a St. Valentine's Day Massacre four days late. Wellington jumped all over visiting the Mulvane High girls Tuesday night, Feb. 18, and blasted the Wildcats into submission, 56-26, in a Chisholm Trail League game in Wellington.

In the junior varsity game, the Cats rallied for a 16-15 victory.

The whipping was the worst of the season for Coach Gregg Wolgast's Cat girls and the 26 points represented the worst production of the year. Ironically, the Crusaders held Mulvane to 26 the first time they played in January.

"It was the worst game we've played in my years," lamented Wolgast. "We got back to the way we were playing earlier in the season. We stood around, we didn't move on offense and we didn't get back on defense. On the other hand, Wellington came out and did a good job. This was their first chance to have a winning season ever, so they came out fired up and came out to play."

I didn't take that feeling long to manifest itself. The Crusaders streaked to a 22-8 lead after one quarter and the game was never in doubt after adding a 19-8 spread in the second quarter for a 41-16 lead.

Mulvane's top guns were mostly quiet. Denise Wilson scored 10 points to carry the offense. Backline mate, Sheila Mills, was held to only eight points and Tricia Turner scored six points. Stephanie Schultz scored Mulvane's other two points.

Top scorer for the Cat jayvees was Lee Banzet with six points. Kendra Mow and Mills scored four points apiece.

The Cat girls posted their best victory of the season and avenged two earlier beatings Friday night, Feb. 14, when they hung on for a 48-47 thriller over Valley Center before a large homecoming crowd here.

VC is in 3rd place in the Chisholm Trail League with a 5-3 record and overall, the Hornets weigh in at 9-7. The victory boosted the Cats out of the CTL basement with a 2-7 record. Overall, the girls are 4-13.

Mulvane led most of the way before Valley rallied to take a two-point lead in the final two minutes. Wolgast pulled the right strings down the stretch, inserting 6-foot, 2-inch freshman scoring sensation Melissa Maxey in the line-up just before a free throw. She grabbed that key rebound after a miss. Later, Turner was fouled with 44 seconds left and put Mulvane a point behind, 47-46. She missed the second free throw and it took a wide bounce out to Mills for the rebound. Mills dropped it underneath to Maxey, who scored her first two varsity points from point-blank range. The basket also was the difference.

"Obviously, we wanted to get some height in there," said Wolgast. "I knew there were going to be a lot of free throws being shot. Maxey had a big block and a big rebound right before the winning shot."

"I thought in a lot of ways this was our best game," said Wolgast. "We were playing with a lot more confidence. Valley got that big shift in momentum and took the lead but we came right back. Our young players coming off the bench helped our starters out."

The Cats had their troubles with another slow start, falling behind, 15-7, after one quar-

Mulvane	8	8	8	2-26
Wellington	22	19	11	4-56

Mulvane--Tricia Turner 6, Stephanie Schultz 2, Sheila Mills 8, Denise Wilson 10, Lee Banzet 0. FG 11 (0), FT 4-15, F 15.  
Wellington--Griffin 9, Silcott 19, Tuttle 8, Lockhart 8, McAlister 6, Bertrand 4, Nance 2. FG 26 (0), FT 4-11, F 17.

Mulvane	2	6	4	4-16
Wellington	4	4	7	0-15

Mulvane--Kendra Mow 4, Lee Banzet 6, Heather Pearman 2, Deva Lewis 2, Sheila Mills 4. FG 8 (0), FT 2-8, F 8.  
Wellington--Wallace 1, Freeman 2, DeJursmo 3, Nancy 4, Horn 1, Lockhart 4. FG 5 (0), FT 5-8, F 11.

Valley Center	15	7	12	13-47
Mulvane	9	14	16	9-48

Valley Center--Heather Barbosa 3, Amber Mounday 13, Brenda Riopel 14, Teri Gordon 3, Karie Williams 8, Dawnela Bennett 4, Carol Long 2. FG 19-46 (0), FT 9-25, F 25

Mulvane--Denise Wilson 10, Tricia Turner 14, Sheila Mills 10, Lee Banzet 2, Stephanie Schultz 4, Melissa Maxey 2, Kristi McDowell 2, Cody Watson 2. FG 17-49 (0), FT 14-28, F 22.

Valley Center	2	11	17	7-37
Mulvane	0	17	1	15-33

Valley Center--Parks 3, Grimes 3, S Jones 2, Fierhoge 4, Banick 2, Morrison 4, Barbosa 4, K Jones 2, Long 3, Miles 9. FG 12-28 (0), FT 13-28, F 13.

Mulvane--Kristi McDowell 8, Deva Lewis 3, Lee Banzet 2, Cody Watson 6, Melissa Maxey 12, Jamie Hardison 2. FG 13-45 (0), FT 7-16, F 24.

ter but Mulvane was back in the lead after a 30-19 spread over the middle two quarters.

"It's good to beat a good ball club with a good record," said Wolgast. "I thought the one thing that helped is we kept Valley's post players tied up. They scored 30 points in the last game we played them. Our post defense was really good. We got good position and didn't let them establish anything inside. Wilson and Mills did a great job on defense, and Kendra Mow came off the bench and really worked hard inside."

VC's pressure defense took its toll early as the Wildcats fell behind in the first quarter. "They had some scores off press steals but in the second quarter, I thought our press bothered them. We had a match-up zone trap and it caused them some problems because they thought it was a man-to-man. All we wanted to do was to force their big people to bring the ball down the floor."

With Wilson scoring six points and Turner five, the Cats made a game of it, out-scoring VC, 15-7, in the second quarter, then kept building on that success in the third period until Mulvane was ahead by eight, 43-35, early in the 4th quarter.

Mulvane also dominated the backboards with Wilson getting 11 rebounds and Mills 10. The Cats had 36 to the Hornets' 26. "That was another key factor," said Wolgast. "We did a much better job on the boards. We out-played them there. We've been doing a good job in that department the last few games."

Mulvane also had its season-high in steals with 17. Turner had five thefts and Mills had four.

In the junior varsity game, Valley held off the Wildcats in the last quarter for a 37-33 victory. Mulvane had to overcome a 17-1 deficit in the 3rd quarter, getting back in the game by out-scoring Valley, 15-7, in the last quarter.

Maxey scored 12 points in the game and guard Kristi McDowell scored eight. Freshman Cody Watson chipped in with six points.