

Wildcat Girls Making Sub-State Tracks

The list of "2's" stretched all the way across the scoring sheet, from Kendra Banzet's name, a seemingly never-ending string of them which finally ended at the number "33."

That also represented the Mulvane High School girls game plan Tuesday night, Feb. 26, in the opening round of the Augusta Class 4A Sub-State.

Augusta Class 4A Girls Sub-State

Friday, March 1

6 p.m.—Mulvane (17-4) vs. Rose Hill (14-7)

7:30—Augusta (17-4) vs. Circle (12-9)

Saturday, March 2

6 p.m. (Championship)—winners of semifinal games

FIRST ROUND

Andover	13	14	10	16-53
Mulvane	23	15	17	13-68

Andover—Kristy Hanson 2, Lori Brooks 5, Larissa Heath 9, Angela Vogt 12, Brandi Beach 8, Connie Smith 15, Jennifer Belcher 2. FG 19 (2), FT 9-15, F 13.

Mulvane—Tricia Turner 5, Kendra Banzet 33, Kerri Taylor 7, Ticia Nicholson 9, Lisa Heersche 12, Dawn Hicks 2. FG 30 (0), FT 8-18, F 15.

Rose Hill 69, Fredonia 45
Circle 62, Council Grove 42
Augusta 78, Belle Plaine 37

Varsity Girls

Andale	10	14	13	8-45
Mulvane	9	9	17	13-48

Andale—Sammie Lane 6, Lisa Marx 15, Pam Knoblauch 6, Steph Simon 2, Crystal Gorgas 14, Lee Siler 2. FG 22-47 (0), FT 1-9, F 19.

Mulvane—Ticia Nicholson 15, Kendra Banzet 17, Lisa Heersche 12, Tricia Turner 2, Kerri Taylor 2. FG 19-43 (0), FT 10-20, F 9.

Junior Varsity Girls

No junior varsity girls game played

The Wildcats kept their hot hand going as they dealt Andover (3-18) a losing hand in a 68-53 game held in Mulvane because the Cat girls were seeded No. 2, which was higher than No. 7 Andover.

Stellar center Kendra Banzet poured through 33 points, hitting 16 field goals, as the Wildcats mopped up.

The victory enabled Coach Gregg Wolgast's Wildcats to advance to the semi-final round, which will be at 6 p.m. Friday, March 1, against Rose Hill. The No. 3 seeded Rockets (14-7) battered Fredonia, 69-45, in a semifinal at RH. The girls' championship game will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 2.

The championship game will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at Augusta.

"She could have had 50," said Wolgast. "We got the ball inside to her whenever we wanted to. It was just a matter of how many times we wanted to throw it inside."

The Wildcats broke for the lead quickly as Banzet lobbed 11 points in in the opening frame and Mulvane streaked out to a 23-13 lead that was never threatened. "We were in control most of the game but we never could put them away," emphasized Wolgast.

"We got things going with some fastbreak baskets but once we got set up, we could get the ball to Kendra about every time," said the Cat coach. "They were trying to stop her with a box-in-one, I think, and get some backside help but that freed Kerri (Taylor) and Ticia (Nicholson) up for some buckets and late in the game, Lisa (Heersche) made

three buckets on the back side."

Banzet's 33 point effort was helped out by 12 more points by Lisa Heersche, nine by Nicholson, seven by Taylor and five by point guard Tricia Turner.

Wolgast, whose favored club was knocked off in the first round of 5A sub-state play a year ago, was anxious to move on. "We seem to play to the level of our competition, and I told the girls from here on out, we'll be playing some strong schools," said Wolgast. "The girls have done a good job responding to that big game challenge."

The Wildcat gals closed out their regular season in stunning fashion in an unusual Thursday night game, Feb. 21, in Mulvane as they skipped past previously undefeated Andale, 48-45.

Andale had been undefeated after 18 games but the Wildcats rallied in the second half, out-scoring the Indians, 13-8, in the fourth quarter to come from behind.

The game gave Mulvane a point of revenge. Last year at Andale, the Indians iced the Wildcats, 69-47, in another regular season-ending scrap between two of the top 4A girls teams in the area.

The Thursday night victory also gave the Wildcats a 16-4 record heading into sub-state play at Augusta. That record includes victories over every top team they played in the area—Rose Hill, Andale, Buhler, Valley Center and Goddard.

"The win was a big one from a confidence standpoint," said Wolgast, perhaps

remembering last year's 14-7 outfit which lost in the first round of the sub-state after Andale had battered the team days earlier.

While the Wildcats have 6-foot, 3-inch Kendra Banzet and 5-10 Ticia Nicholson, Wolgast said the Indians had four starters 5-10 or better and another reserve over 5-10. Still, Mulvane dominated the board war, which was the key to battle.

"We controlled the backboards and I think that was one of the differences in the game," stressed Wolgast. "They were big but we got good position on them. They probably have the biggest team we'll ever see but the girls did a good job getting position. When the shot went up, we got there first and got the rebounds."

The Wildcats racked up a 53-24 edge in rebounding as Banzet pulled down 15 boards, Nicholson had 14 and Lisa Heersche got 12.

"A lot of times, a bigger team can just go over the top of smaller people and that tends to get them in trouble against a team that has some size, too," noted Wolgast. "This worked to our advantage because they got into foul trouble, which helped, too."

The Wildcats came out slowly in this battle of division leaders. Andale won the Chisholm Trail League's Division II and the Wildcats tied Augusta for the Division I crown in the CTL. The visitors grabbed the early lead and were up by five by halftime as the Cat offense sputtered, scoring only 18 points.

It was a different story in the second half as the Wildcats out-scored Andale, 30-21, to

rally. "Down the stretch, we made some free throws and made the shots and they didn't," said Wolgast. "I think at the start of the 4th quarter, Tricia Turner and Kerri Taylor each made a basket off a fast break, ironically their only ones of the game, but those two baskets seemed to give us the momentum we needed. We started doing a better job defensively and shooting better. We shot the ball poorly in the first half but we played our game in the second half."

Banzet finished with 17 points, Nicholson had 15 and Heersche notched 12 for the Wildcats.



"All year long, our girls have come up to the big game," said Wolgast. "They played up a notch in the Winfield game, they played it up a notch against Rose Hill and they played it up a notch in the tournament game against Kapaun, so I hope it continues."