

5A Sub-State Title In Sight For MHS Girls

The Mulvane High School girls basketball program has grown up. Just how much, we'll know in a week.

The Wildcats will be gunning for their first trip ever to the state tournament when they tangle with host Campus, at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the opening round of the Campus Class 5A Sub-State Tournament in Haysville. The winner will advance to a Wednesday, March 7, appointment in next week's 5A State Championship at the Expo Center in Topeka.

The Wildcats are in unfamiliar territory. Sporting a 14-6 record, Coach Gregg Wolgast's Cats are the No. 1 seed at Campus. Never before have the MHS girls been seeded first and never before have they been serious contenders for a role in the state tourney.

If they win tonight, they will battle the winner of the Kapaun Mt. Carmel (13-6) and El Dorado (9-11) game in the championship game at 6 p.m. Saturday night, March 3.

Wolgast's club tuned up for the sub-state at Andale Thursday night, Feb. 22, and came away with a 69-47 licking. The Cats already had the No. 1 seed at Campus and the Chisholm Trail League Division I championship, the school's first, wrapped up.

"I think the girls are excited about it and are looking forward to it," said Wolgast. "If we play well, we can get out. I went over to Campus and watched them play Hutchinson Friday night and they put a lot of pressure on you, and they have some good shooters, so we're going to have to get out on their shooters.

"We're going to have to keep doing the same things we've been doing, it's too late to start changing now," added Wolgast. "We'll be working on polishing things up. We can always get better with work. We're really just concerned about getting ourselves ready to play and now worrying about the other team."

One of the things Mulvane has been doing best is getting the ball to inside juniors Kendra Banzet and Ticia Nicholson, the top two scorers for Mulvane. That's something Mulvane didn't do Thursday at Andale because they were both in foul trouble against the CTL showdown featuring

Varsity Girls

Mulvane	11	11	13	12	47
Andale	14	19	18	18	69

Mulvane - Ticia Nicholson 10, Lisa Heersche 8, Kendra Banzet 16, Ticia Turner 4, Nicole Infinger 7, Denise Wilson 2. FG 21-43 (0), FT 5-9, F 18

Andale - Mary Niles 15, Crystal Gorges 16, Rhonda Focke 2, Pam Kloblauch 9, Lisa Marx 15, Sammie Lane 6, Gina Martin 6. FG 26-48 (0), FT 17-22, F 14

Junior Varsity Girls

Mulvane	9	6	13	21	49
Andale	10	8	17	13	48

Mulvane - Ticia Turner 2, Kim Rodriguez 1, Jenny Ray 3, Sheila Mills 8, Dawn Hicks 10, Denise Wilson 2. FG 21-45 (0), FT 7-14, F 11

Andale - Rhonda Focke 18, Steph Simon 4, Shelly Strunk 7, Paula Robben 2, Gina Martin 4, Shanna Simon 5. FG 18-44 (0), FT 7-13, F 16

Campus Class 5A Sub-State Pairings

Tonight (March 1)

Game 1 - Kapaun Mt. Carmel girls (13-6) vs. El Dorado girls (9-11), 6 p.m.

Game 2 - Mulvane girls (14-6) vs. Campus girls (3-16)

Friday, March 2

Game 3 - El Dorado boys (12-8) vs. Mulvane boys (0-20), 6 p.m.

Game 4 - Campus boys (7-12) vs. Kapaun Mt. Carmel boys (6-13), 7:30

Saturday, March 3

Game 5 (Girls Championship)—winners of games 1 and 2, 6 p.m.

Game 6 (Boys Championship)—winners of games 3 and 4, 7:30

the Division I champs (Mulvane) and the Division II co-champs (Andale). "We had Kendra and Ticia out much of the first half with fouls," said Wolgast. "The other girls came in and did a good job but you can't find substitutes with the experience of those two."

Both picked up their second fouls early in the second quarter. Until that time, the game was hotly-contested but the (19-1) Indians pulled away to lead by 11 at half-time, 33-22.

"For the most part, we played them well until the end when we had to put up three pointers trying to catch up," said Wolgast. "We had two stretches, one in the second quarter and one at the start of the fourth quarter that they got away from us."

Andale's tough, though, and hit the free throws down the stretch and kept the pressure on. They made 17 of 22 from the stripe.

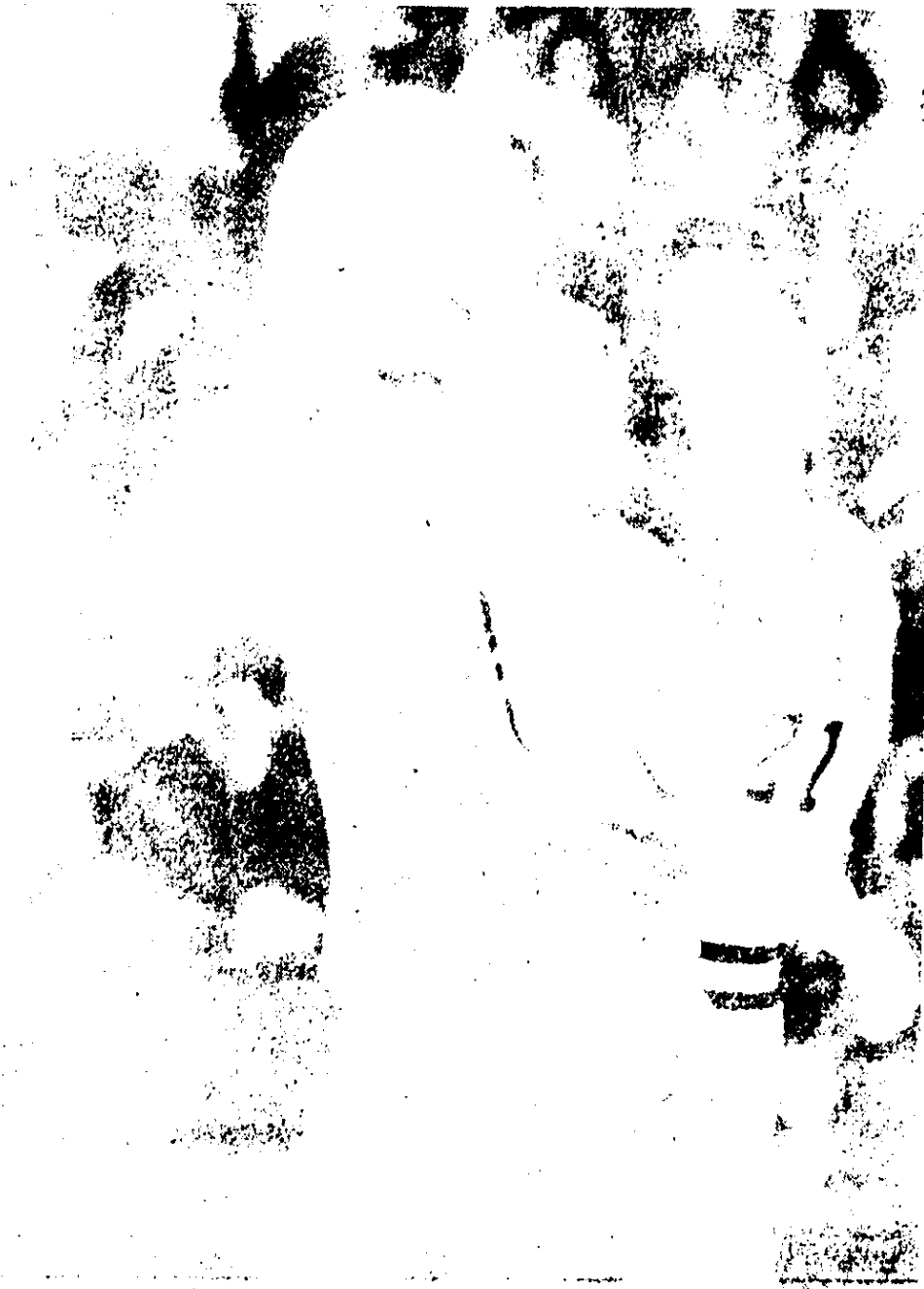
"We're disappointed we didn't win but after watching the film, I felt we executed like we wanted to and got the shots we wanted but they wouldn't fall," said Wolgast. "And they had more size they we do, which not many teams are going to have. I guess looking back on it, I could have left Kendra and Ticia in but that's usually the second-guessing you do on a decision like that. If I would have left them in and they had fouled out, I would have been wondering why I didn't take them out.

"They're pretty strong," added Wolgast. "We felt we could sag off and not let them get the ball inside a lot but they knocked down the shots early, forcing us to come out, which opened the inside up. And they're deep, too. They got into foul trouble and got people coming in off the bench to take up the slack."

At any length, Wolgast said Andale was the best club Mulvane had faced this season and went on to prove it by holding up down the stretch, matching the Cats basket-for-basket.

"A game like that should give us some confidence, too," added Wolgast. "We went up against one of the best teams around and forced them to make some changes to win the ball game."

Banzet finished with a team-high 16



Wildcat Lisa Heersche (41) gets ready to strike

points and Nicholson was the only other Wildcat in twin figures, hitting 10. Lisa Heersche scored eight points and Nicole Infinger, the lone senior on the squad, scored seven.

The Wildcat junior varsity rallied to end its season on a great note, tripping the

Indian jayvees, 49-43. That left Coach Scott Swaney's jayvee girls at 6-8 for the season.

Denise Wilson served notice she's ready to add to a formidable frontline next season by scoring 25 points for Mulvane. Dawn Hicks scored 10 points and freshman Sheila Mills scored eight points off the bench.