

Play Braves Tonight

Vets Stand At 'Crunch'

FREDONIA—Veterans come to the forefront in crunch time and it was crunch time Monday night, March 2, in the opening game of the Bluestem Class 4A Girls Sub-State.

Mulvane High School's Wildcats played a determined game as they rose up to knock off No. 3 seeded Fredonia, 48-43, at Fredonia. Mulvane was seeded No. 6 in the sub-state.

The Wildcats will take their 7-14 mark into the semifinal game at 6 p.m. tonight (March 5) against No. 2 seeded Council Grove (14-6). In the other girls' semifinal, Circle's top-seeded Thunderbirds (16-5) will tangle with the host Bluestem girls (11-9) at 7:30.

Other first-round games, all played on the court of the top four seeds, found Council Grove ripping Eureka, 66-38, Circle slamming Rose Hill, 62-29, and Bluestem edging Andover, 49-44. The Cats were the lowest seed to advance.

"We played a pretty outstanding ball game," admitted Gregg Wolgast, who last year guided Mulvane's gals to their first state tournament trip. "I think both teams came out tight in the first quarter. Their transition game hurt us in the second quarter but in the second half, we took control of the game. We controlled the boards and didn't let them have any fastbreak baskets. We basically shut down their fastbreak offense."

Offensively, Mulvane's three veterans—guard Tricia Turner and Denise Wilson, both seniors, and junior Sheila Mills came to the rescue. Mills continued her hot scoring with a team-high 15 points. Wilson scored 12 points and Turner was in double figures, too, with 10. Two freshmen were next with four points each—Melissa Maxey and Cody Watson. In fact, Watson got her first start on the varsity.

The teams battled through the first quarter with a draw before Fredonia broke in front with several lay-ups off the fastbreak to take a 27-24 halftime lead.

"We shut that off in the second half," pointed out Wolgast. "They wanted to run up and down the floor but we did a lot better job of keeping that from happening. Our press worked better in the second half, too. It wasn't too effective in the first half. In the second half, we did a lot better job of denying it in and of shutting them off. We were able to get some deflections with good anticipation and that led to several buckets by Turner."

Turner picked off nine steals and guard Deva Lewis had another four. "I think the girls just turned up the intensity in the second half," testified Wolgast. "The girls kept Fredonia from getting into their offense and I felt like that was a big key."



Bluestem Class 4A Girls Sub-State

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	9	15	14	10-48
Fredonia	9	18	6	10-43
Mulvane—Sheila Mills 15, Denise Wilson 12, Tricia Turner 10, Melissa Maxey 4, Cody Watson 4, Kristi McDowell 2, Lee Banzet 1. FG 20-41 (0), FT 8-20, F 15.				
Fredonia—Melissa Kingery 14, Andrea Lockett 11, Heather Sims 10, Anissa Butler 4, Kimber Stucky 2, Andrea Boorer 2. FG 16-40 (0), FT 11-17, F 23.				

Council Grove 66, Eureka 38
Circle 62, Rose Hill 29
Bluestem 49, Andover 44

Bluestem Class 4A Girls Sub-State Pairings

TODAY (MARCH 5)

Game 5--Council Grove (14-6) vs. Mulvane (7-14), 6 p.m.

Game 6 --Circle (16-5) vs. Bluestem (11-9), 7:30

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Game 7 (Championship) -- winners of games 5 and 6, 6 p.m.

Re-grouping at halftime, the Wildcats came out smokin'. They out-scored Fredonia, 14-6, in the 3rd frame to gain the lead. They held on in the final quarter.

"We definitely picked up the pace in the second half," said Wolgast. "Early in the game, we were getting good shots but they adjusted and stopped us. We had noticed in scouting reports that they over-shifted to the ball, leaving the weak side open to a skip pass and a good shot. In the third and fourth quarters, we moved a lot better, people were breaking to where they needed to get to get the ball."

Rebounding also picked up as the Cats started gaining control of the boards. "They had one big girl who really hurt us in the first half but our defenders did a good job keeping her away from the basket in the second half," said Wolgast. "Denise and Melissa were big factors there and so was the fact that she got into foul trouble. She played less in the second half with her foul trouble."

Wolgast said he didn't know much about Council Grove. The Braves, coached by Deryl Jimerson, will be bringing a 14-6 record into tonight's fray. They play in the Cottonwood Valley League.