

Knocked Out Of Sub-State

Quick Braves Ambush Cats

LEON—The last three minutes of the Mulvane-Council Grove game provided a perfect example of quickness vs. size.

Quickness muted size.

Quickness was the difference Thursday night, March 5, when the Mulvane High girls faltered down the stretch and Council Grove pulled away for a 50-40 semifinal triumph in the Bluestem Class 4A Sub-State here.

The quicker Braves raided the haven of the big people, gaining an edge in rebounding. And quickness forced mistakes and turnovers. Consequently, the Braves advanced to the sub-state championship game Saturday, March 7, before being decked by Circle's Thunderbirds, 71-64, for the title.

The Thunderbirds were to take their 18-5 record into the first round of the Class 4A Girls State Championship Wednesday, March 11, against 22-1 Santa Fe Trail.

For most of the game, the Wildcats gave Council Grove a ball game. Only in the final moments did the Braves pull away as the Cats fruitlessly chased the quicker girls while they iced away the final three minutes.

"We were right in the ball game until Lisa Ashlock came in and made four baskets in a row," said Gregg Wolgast, the MHS girls coach. "I was looking at the film again last night and on only one of those shots did we not have good defense on her. On the other three, we were playing good defense. She just put the ball in the basket."

The beginning of the end started midway in the 4th quarter when the Wildcats trailed by only one point and had the ball. A missed shot and a CG fielder made it a three-point game and the Cats were never again within a bucket. CG milked the clock each time down as the Wildcats seemed to have difficulty fouling anybody to stop the clock.

"Overall, I felt like we played hard," said Wolgast. "The things we had wanted to do against Council Grove, we basically did. We wanted to stop their transition game and fast break. We also wanted to take advantage of our size. We had the size on them. And thirdly, we wanted to keep their guards in foul trouble. We felt like their guards were the key to the team."

"We accomplished two of the three pre-game goals. We did a good job getting back. They hardly got any transition baskets. And we did get their guards into foul trouble. One



Bluestem Class 4A Girls Sub-State

CHAMPIONSHIP

Circle 71, Council Grove 64

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane	9	11	11	9-40
Council Grove	15	8	11	16-50

Mulvane—Sheila Mills 17, Tricia Turner 10, Denise Wilson 5, Lee Banzet 3, Stephanie Schultz 1, Deva Lewis 2, Melissa Maxey 2. FG 15-34 (0), FT 10-17, F 17.

Council Grove—Lisa Ashlock 17, Joyce Bumett 4, Kelly Harkness 5, Jeni Rose 4, Crista Andres 8, Amy Oleen 4, Emilee Krauso 2, Dara Litke 2, Brandi Hidecker 4. FG 23-54 (0), FT 4-10, F 20.

Circle 73, Bluestem 49

played sparingly in the second half and the other didn't play much as all, but we were never able to control the boards like I felt we should. I didn't think our size helped."

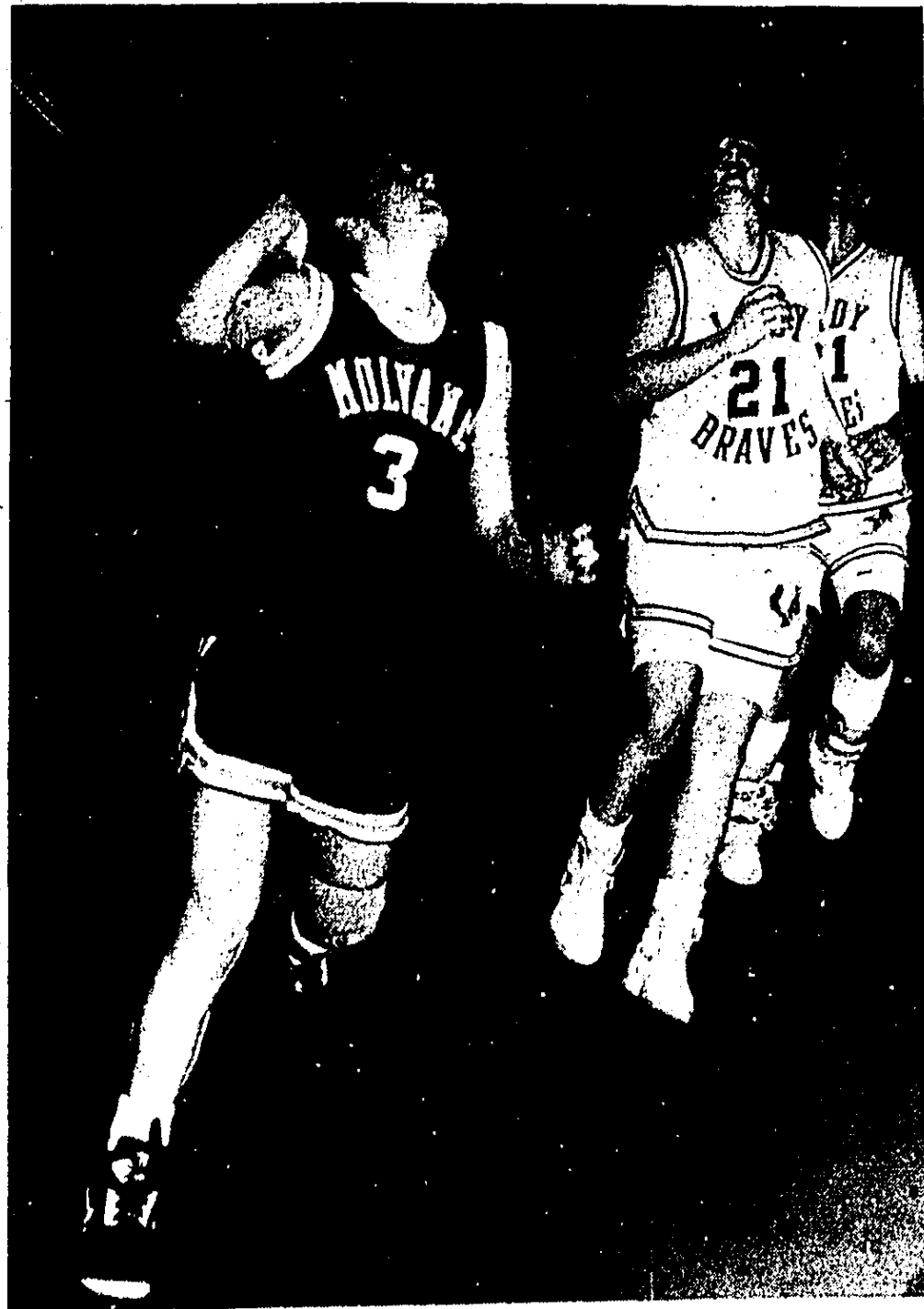
More to the point, though, the Council Grove quickness and aggressiveness more often than not put the Braves in better rebounding position and also put more pressure on the Cat passing game. Council Grove took advantage of its pressure defense to net 21 turnovers while the Braves committed only 12.

The quickness also gave Council Grove (16-6) many more chances to make two. CG went 23 of 54 from the field while Mulvane managed only 16 of 34. That's 20 more field attempts for the Braves.

"Right at first, we had a bunch of turnovers but we settled down a little bit and handled it a lot better in the second and third quarters," pointed out Wolgast. "Then, we had some turnovers in the last quarter when we tried to pressure them."

Wolgast also felt the style of the game was a little more to Council Grove's liking. "They are an aggressive team and with the way the game was being called, it was more to their style of game," said Wolgast. "We wanted it tight but the calls were loose. We weren't getting some of the pushing fouls we had been getting in earlier games."

The taller Wildcats also had difficulty



Cat guard Tricia Turner (3) finishes off lay-up

sealing off the boards, especially at the offensive end. "They seemed to be getting two or three shots at the basket and we were getting one," explained the Cat coach. "The offensive boards, especially, keyed this game because they were getting them and we weren't."

Mulvane had 30 rebounds to 32 for the smaller—but quicker—Braves. Senior Denise Wilson finished her prep cage career with eight boards and juniors Lee Banzet and Sheila Mills also had eight boards.

The 5-9 junior Mills led the scoring for Wolgast's club. She had 17 points. Guard Tricia Turner, a senior, was the only other double-figure scorer. She had 10. Wilson finished with five and Banzet scored three.

"The girls played hard and they did what we wanted them to do," stressed Wolgast. "We tried to get back in the game but we didn't want to foul just anybody. We wanted to trap and see if we could get some

turnovers off the press. Plus, I think our girls got tired there late in the game and we always seemed like a step away from being able to get the trap or steal the pass."

The season ended for the MHS girls, who made a good showing of themselves after starting with a 1-10 swing in the first 11 games. Mulvane started to come on a bit after dumping Clearwater and Buhler in back-to-back games mid-year, actually going 6-3 over the last nine games. The loss left the Cats at 7-15 for the season.

"The girls did a fine job of coming back from where they were in the season to get to the semifinals of the sub-state," said Wolgast. "That's a tribute to the seniors because it would have been easy for the girls to hang their heads and let it go. The seniors wouldn't let the season go, though. They played real well the last half of the season."