

Wildcats 2-1 At Maize

Girls' Play Encourages Stinson, Nabs Consolation Championship

When is being third best something to get excited about? Bill Stinson, Mulvane High School girls basketball chief, says that time is now.

Playing their best ball in Stinson's three years, the Wildcat gals popped Clearwater Saturday afternoon, Dec. 8, to finish as the consolation bracket champion in the Maize Girls Invitational Tournament at Maize High School.

The MHS girls opened the tourney against Canton-Galva, the defending state champion in class 2A, and Mulvane extended Canton-Galva before faltering in the final period, 49-45. In the semifinals, Mulvane bombarded Nickerson, 70-48, Friday night.

Andale won the tourney championship Saturday night by slipping past Canton-Galva, 61-59.

"We were the third best team in that tournament," chimed in Stinson, who is in his third year at the helm for the girls. "But we played some of our best basketball. I feel real good about it. Those two deserve to be one-two and right now, they're probably better teams (than Mulvane) but watch out. The girls are improving.

"In fact, we were fast-breaking for the first time that I can remember," added Stinson. "We were moving the ball up the floor and making things happen. It was the greatest thing to see. After three years, here we were pushing it up the floor and taking it to'em. You have to give a lot of credit to our guards, Lisa (Jones) and Tiane (Dossey). They took it up the floor."

Squaring its record at 2-2 for the year,

MAIZE GIRLS TOURNAMENT CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mulvane 15 10 6 13--44
Clearwater 10 12 9 10--41

Mulvane--Melody Carey 13, Lisa Jones 12, Darla Reekie 5, Lori Cox 10, Tiane Dossey 4 FG 20-58, FT 4-22, F 12

Clearwater--Melody Brobst 9, Pally Stewart 6, Sandy Vogel 1, Bev Blumenshine 6, Robyn Wright 15, Janay Wyant 4 FG 19-52, FT 3-12, F 15

CHAMPIONSHIP

Andale 61, Canton-Galva 59

THIRD PLACE

Maize 35, Valley Center 29

CONSOLATION THIRD PLACE

Pratt 36, Nickerson 30

Consolation Semifinals

Nickerson 6 9 11 22--48
Mulvane 16 21 20 13--70

Nickerson--Debbie Woods 19, Lisa Degarmo 3, Angela Lester 4, Debbie Welch 11, Cher Mason 2, Joni Graber 7, Amy Buerrhoff 2 FG 22-67, FT 4-19, F 21

Mulvane--Melody Carey 23, Lisa Jones 8, Darla Reekie 14, Lori Cox 8, Tiane Dossey 11, Sheila Mahlandt 3, Tammy Haas 3 FG 30-66, FT 10-24, F 16

First Round

Mulvane 11 12 12 10--45
Canton-Galva 11 16 8 14--49

Mulvane--Melody Carey 15, Lisa Jones 12, Darla Reekie 12, Lori Cox 4, Rhonda Davis 2 FG 19-43, FT 7-17, F 18

Canton-Galva--Macari 20, Stieben 2, Wedel 17, Baldwin 2, Unruh 3, Undtrinen 5 FG 17-47, FT 15-22, F 17

Mulvane stretched out against Clearwater to win it in the final quarter after going in with a 31-31 tie. Senior Melody Carey was a big gun in that push, hitting three buckets.

"Melody had a tremendous tournament," added Stinson. "And during the tournament, we also got some really good help off the bench. Sheila Mahlandt came in that first game and did a great job for us and Tammy Haas and Rhonda Davis played well in all

three games off the bench."

Carey finished with 13 points, Jones chipped in with 12 and Lori Cox had 10 to give the Cat gals three double-figure scorers for the first time in a long while. Cox also led Mulvane to 31 rebounds by taking down 11.

Mulvane's offense really came alive in the semifinal. The 70-point surge is the most Mulvane points scored in one game.

Carey again paced the Wildcats, scoring a career-high 23 points. Darla Reekie popped in 12 points and Dossey had her best game with 11 points.

Good shooting was the hallmark of the victory, the Cats hitting 30 of 66 fielders for 45% while Nickerson made only 34% (24-69).

The opener Thursday, Dec. 6, was a tough one to take because the Wildcats had Canton-Galva in trouble the entire game. Mulvane out-scored the 2A champs, 12-8, to knot the score going into the final eight minutes as Reekie gunned in six points. However, early misses on free throws came back to haunt the Cats as Canton-Galva pulled it together. Overall, Mulvane hit only seven of 17 from the line, and Canton-Galva hit 15-of-22 at the stripe.

Carey had another twin-figure game--scoring 15. Reekie and Jones both added 12 points to give Mulvane some dandy balance.

The girls will test their "new-found" game Friday night, Dec. 14, when they entertain Goddard in what should be a stern test in the Chisholm Trail League for Mulvane.