

Heersche Shot Wins It

'Big Win' For Mulvane Girls

A swirling defense and Mulvane's "twin towers" tilted on Chaparral Saturday night, Dec. 9, in the second round of the Chaparral Round Robin Girls Basketball Tournament, providing the Wildcats with one of their biggest victories ever.

The Mulvane High School girls parlayed those two strengths into a 42-41 victory over the host Roadrunners and thrust themselves into the tournament championship picture. Garden Plain is 2-0 and Chaparral and Mulvane are 1-1 heading into the last round. That round will be played Saturday, Dec. 16, because of the snow and ice storm which hit last Thursday, Dec. 7. The Wildcats will be playing Wellington at 5 p.m., Saturday.

Mulvane's "twin towers," 6-foot, 3-inch junior Kendra Banzet and junior Ticia Nicholson took turns scoring, Banzet dumping off to Nicholson, who popped in a career-high 21 points. Banzet finished with eight points but had three assists seven rebounds. Nicholson had 13 boards. Mulvane's No. 3 scorer was Withrow, who scored six points.

"This is one of the biggest wins I've had since I've been here," said Wolgast, who was high over the fact that his Wildcats had edged past a perennial powerhouse like Chaparral. "I think this will give the girls a big confidence boost to know they can go out and get anybody by doing the things they need to be doing."

Mulvane out-gunned the Roadrunners, 17-8, in the final quarter to pull the decision out. "We made some shots and ran the offense a little better in the final quarter, that was the key," said Wolgast. "And defensively, we kept them out of their offense. The majority of points they made in the fourth quarter came from the free throw line. I think they only had one or two buckets in the last quarter."

And it didn't hurt to have guard Lisa Heersche waiting in the key for a last-second shot by Tammy Withrow. Withrow was selected to take the last shot to win but missed and Heersche got the rebound and put it back in as the horn sounded. Two free throws by Ticia Nicholson cut the Chappy lead to one point with less than one minute to play. The Cats put a Roadrunner at the stripe with 10 seconds left but she missed the front end of a bonus and Mulvane rebounded. "We decided to go with Tammy in a time out because we knew they would be sinking inside on our big girls," said Wolgast. "Lisa was lucky to be there to get the rebound and winning basket."

Nicholson and Banzet controlled the backboards. "That kept them off the boards most of the game," said the Cat coach. "They had only four offensive rebounds and that was one reason we were able to get back into the ball game."

The Roadrunners took the lead early in the second quarter after the Cats had jumped in front, 10-4 early. It took Mulvane two quarters to regain the lead, something that didn't come until the final shot of the game.

CHAPARRAL GIRLS

ROUND-ROBIN TOURNAMENT

SECOND ROUND

Mulvane	10	6	9	17	42
Chaparral	4	16	13	8	41
Mulvane	Tammy Withrow 6, Kendra Banzet 8, Kim Rodriguez 2, Jenny Ray 1, Ticia Nicholson 21, Lisa Heersche 2, Nicole Infinger 2. FG 18-40 (0), FT 6-14, F 21				

Chaparral	Lauri Arnold 4, Cari Warden 2, Linda Lane 9, Michelle Koehler 6, Melinda Mason 11, Jennifer Rorabaugh 2, Angie Metzger 6, Cathy Wornack 1. FG 15-44 (0), FT 11-20, F 19				
-----------	---	--	--	--	--

Garden Plain 56, Wellington 33

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	4	6	8	11	29
Garden Plain	7	17	9	14	47
Mulvane	Jenny Ray 3, Nicole Infinger 4, Denise Wilson 2, Kendra Banzet 13, Tammy Withrow 7. FG 11-35 (0), FT 7-20, F 21				

Garden Plain	Amy Jax 6, Rhonda Jiskra 2, Lena Panek 20, Michelle Lux 5, Kathy Walden 11, Jenny Barton 3. FG 19-44 (0), FT 9-17, F 20				
--------------	---	--	--	--	--

Chaparral 49, Wellington 39

"Everybody was pretty excited after the game," said Wolgast. "From a confidence standpoint, beating Chaparral was so important for the program. Hopefully, it can be a springboard to a good season."

The Wildcats marched into the the second round game on the heels of a season-starting 47-29 drubbing at the hands of Garden Plain. The Owls pulled away from Mulvane in the second quarter behind a 17-6 run and took advantage of some poor Mulvane shooting early and the foul trouble of Nicholson, who failed to score and played less than half the game.

"The shots weren't falling but we were still in the game in the third quarter," said Wolgast. "We were down about seven points but they started making their free throws."

Banzet led the team with 13 points and Withrow finished with seven. Nicole Infinger scored four coming off the bench.

The Wildcats will play their first game in the Chisholm Trail League Friday night, Dec. 15, before winding up the Chappy tourney the next afternoon.