

Last-Second Goal Lifts Cat Girls In Tournament Repeat Showing

It was a miracle throw-in, a miracle shot and a miracle finish to Mulvane's string of bad luck in the Maize Girls Invitational Tournament Saturday afternoon, Dec. 10.

The Mulvane High School girls, fresh from a low ebb--they blew an 11-point lead in the fourth quarter in a semifinal loss, grabbed seventh place in the tournament by edging winless Wellington, 45-44, in overtime.

Andale steamrolled to first place later Saturday in the feature game, bouncing Nickerson, 58-43. Valley Center took third place by nailing down a 39-25 verdict over Maize, and Winfield downed Chaparral's jayvees, 58-44, for fifth place.

In a semifinal match, the Cats were out-gunned, 20-8, in the final period and blew a big lead as Chaparral's jayvees edged Mulvane, 40-37.

Those bad vibes were reversed, however, when Nancy Farber's throw-in from backcourt fell perfectly into Kendra Banzet's hands next to the free throw line and she turned and popped in a 15-footer as the horn sounded to win the game.

"It was one of those times when your chances of winning are pretty slim but we got two good plays, the throw-in and the shot," said Gregg Wolgast, the Mulvane coach.

Wellington led, 44-43, with 20 seconds left and had the ball but the Crusaders couldn't make good on a free throw with less than 10 seconds left. That left the door open and after a time out with two seconds left, Farber's throw-in found Banzet in the lane and she turned and fired up a shot that found the cords. "That's the play we wanted," said Wolgast. "We wanted Kendra to shoot it if she could or tap it off to one of the wings if she felt pressure," said Wolgast. "I guess they didn't want to foul her and she got the shot off."

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SEVENTH PLACE

Wellington 6 17 13 5 (3)-44

Mulvane 10 14 10 7 (4)-45

Wellington--Heather Smith 6, Marti Stayton 4, Deeanna Hubbard 3, Debbie Nickell 4, Marci Brechelsen 14, Annette Gleifer 1, Anna Helmer 2. FG 14-48 (1), FT 12-23, F 17.

Mulvane--Nicole Infinger 2, Kendra Banzet 12, Ticia Nicholson 17, Nancy Farber 8, Kandi Miller 2, Lisa Heersche 2, Bridget Horton 2. FG 20-48 (0), FT 12-23, F 17.

FIRST PLACE

Andale 58, Nickerson 43

THIRD PLACE

Valley Center 39, Maize 25

FIFTH PLACE

Winfield 58, Chaparral JV 44

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 10 8 11 8-37

Chaparral JV 8 10 2 20-40

Mulvane--Nicole Infinger 2, Kendra Banzet 14, Ticia Nicholson 9, Sharla Wages 8, Nancy Farber 8. FG 17-40 (0) FT 3-6, F 16.

Chaparral JV--Jennifer Florabaugh 6, Laurie Arnold 6, Bridgett Hunt 9, Michelle Drouhard 2, Michelle Branaugh 10, Amy Dieker 1, Stephanie Zink 8. FG 16-42 (0), Ft 8-14, F 8.

Winfield 63, Wellington 36

Andale 66, Maize 24

Nickerson 49, Valley Center 48

need to get them to relax out there."

In all, Mulvane made 37 turnovers to keep the Crusaders tightly in the game.

"It was great to get that first win," said Wolgast, whose team is now 1-3. "It's something that's important. We had played well at times earlier and couldn't get the win, so I feel the victory will give us a boost. I know it's a lot easier to come back to practice after you've won a game."

Sophomores Ticia Nicholson gunned in 17 points before fouling out in the final moments of regulation. Banzet finished with 12 points. Farber scored eight.

Mulvane was flying high against Chaparral until the pressure started building. Mulvane finished with 34 turnovers in the semifinal loss. Chaparral had only 18, which was the difference in the contest.

Banzet again was a terror for Mulvane, scoring a team-high 14 points. Nicholson scored nine points and both Sharla Wages and Farber scored six points each.

It marked the second year in a row that the MHS girls had nipped Wellington by a point at the buzzer in the tournament. Farber's baseline fielder last year was the difference, 50-49.

"We played an excellent first half but let them go to the line too often at the end of the half and they got back in the game," said Wolgast, whose club had been ahead by as many as seven points in the second quarter. Wellington turned up the pressure and made some free throws to get back in the game by intermission, trailing by one, 24-23.

"In each of our games, turnovers hurt," said Wolgast, who is obviously still trying to find ballhandlers out front. "We have to learn to take off the pressure. It's like the girls are trying to force things and that's making them too tight when it comes to breaking the press, and that leads to turnovers. We