

Wildcat Girls Pull Victory Out Of Defeat In 1st Round

The Amazin' Wildcats may have been born Tuesday night, Jan. 30, in the opening round of the Caldwell Invitational Girls Basketball Tournament at Caldwell High School.

Making like Houdini, Mulvane High School's girls cagers pulled off an amazing comeback in the last 10 seconds to pull out a 46-45 victory over South Barber.

The victory enabled Coach Bill Brown's Wildcats to advance to a semifinal game at 6:30 p.m. tonight

(Feb. 1) against Clearwater, which was given a first-round bye. It also improved Mulvane's record to 3-5 this year.

"Hopefully, this will light a spark under the girls," said Brown following the last-second victory.

Mulvane trailed, 45-42, and had the ball with 10 seconds left in the game. Sandy Whetstone dribbled around a screen set by Jan Dankert and scored on a 15-foot jumper with seven seconds left. South Barber, trying to bring the ball in-bounds, had a bad pass which

bounced directly to Shelly Gerlach under the basket and she dropped through the unmolested shot with three seconds to tick, pushing Mulvane to victory.

"We were trying to get a time out (after Whetstone's basket) but the girls didn't see us," said Brown. "I was even surprised to see South Barber throw the ball in. Gerlach probably was surprised as anybody when she got the ball but she put it in and won the game."

South Barber could have made it

difficult for the Cats had it taken the full five seconds to throw the ball in. "I just don't think either team had been in that kind of situation before and it worked to our advantage," said Brown.

The Wildcats trailed most of the game. Going into the final frame, South Barber was clinging to a 33-26 lead. "Actually, they were ahead 33-23," said Brown. "I think the kids looked up there (at the scoreboard) and said 'hey, we're better than they are' and decided to prove it."

Whetstone led that last-period surge with 11 of her game-high 17 points in the fourth quarter and Gerlach scored six points in the period, finishing with 11.

Caldwell Invitational

FIRST ROUND

South Barber 9 10 14 12 -- 45
Mulvane 9 9 8 20 -- 46

South Barber -- Connie Plaeck 15, Debbie Greenwood 11, Celia Graves 10, Shelly Newton 2, Vickie Dornick 4, Darlene Abbott 3 FG 17-46, FT 11-25 F 16

Mulvane -- Sandy Whetstone 17, Shelly Gerlach 11, Sheena Martinez 4, Vicki Kill 2, Kim Elston 7, Jan Dankert 5 FG 18-68, FT 10-23, F 20

Wellington 47, Conway Springs 29

TONIGHT

Game 3 Mulvane vs Clearwater 6:30 p.m.

Game 4 Caldwell vs Wellington 8

SATURDAY

(Consolation Championship)

Game 5 Conway Springs vs South Barber 5 p.m.

Game 6 (Third Place) Losers of games 3 and 4 6:30

Game 7 (First Place) Winners of games 3 and 4 8