



Mulvane third sacker Holly Donaldson stretches for a late throw to the bag against Valley Center

Wildcats 0-4

T-Birds Keep Girls Reeling

The woes continued Tuesday night, April 11, for the Mulvane High School girls softball team as they were stung by a doubleheader sweep at Circle. The Thunderbirds took the first game by an 8-7 count, then came back to run-rule Coach Nancy Winters' girls, 21-11, in the nightcap.

The losses dropped the Wildcats' record to 0-4 for the season.

"The first game was very interesting," said Winter. "It was a pitcher's duel with Shanda (Vangas) having a great game. She was responsible for about 80% of their putouts, either by strikeouts or by tapping the ball back to her."

Vangas finished with a career-high 10 strikeouts and the righthander gave up only five hits.

"We couldn't solve their pitcher, who was throwing about 20 miles per hour," said Winter. "We work on getting the girls to come around on fast pitchers and they had a little trouble waiting long enough to hit the ball on Circle's first pitcher."

Most of Mulvane's offense in the opener came in the third inning when the Wildcats tied the game at 6-6, with six runs. Delinda Gonzales started the rally with a single and scored on Holly Donaldson's double. Vangas plated Donaldson with a base knock and catcher Shaunda Smith doubled in a run. After Amy Lowe hit an RBI single, Carrie Mintzer singled, and both trotted home on Karen Burdette's bases-clearing triple.

Mulvane also started the nightcap with a big inning, scoring seven times in the opening frame, but most of the damage was self-inflicted because of T-Bird walks and errors. Gonzales singled to open the game and the only other hit of the frame was Mintzer's single for two runs. She finished with three RBIs and had two hits for the nightcap.

"The bottom just fell out of our pitching again," said Winter. "Neither pitcher could please the umpire and it just became a walk marathon. I think we gave up 18 walks between Vangas and Suzie Rudd and their pitcher had about as many walks, too."

Talk about getting off on the wrong foot, the Mulvane High School girls softball squad got off on the wrong feet when Valley Center came to town Thursday afternoon, April 6.

The visiting Hornets hammered the Wildcats in both ends of a doubleheader, 24-8 and 31-17.

"It was a typical first game of the year," nodded Nancy Winter, the MHS softball coach. "Some of our plays were textbook and some were like like we hadn't ever practiced before. The girls are inexperienced for the most part and were pretty nervous about playing at home. We came out a little tight."

Valley Center took advantage of that nervousness to jump out to an 8-0 lead in the first game, then scored nine more in the third inning to completely put the game out of touch.

Mulvane punched across five runs in the third inning of the first game but the game was way out-of-hand by that time. Gonzales started that rally by walking and Karen

Burdette reached on an error. Both scored when Vangas tripled, and Vangas scored on Smith's double. After walks to Amy Lowe and Holly Donaldson, Jenny Hashbarger squirted a single out of the infield and two more runs scored.

In the second game, Vangas and Smith

each scored four runs, Burdette scored twice and Suzie Rudd scored three times as the Cats scored 17 times.

Mulvane actually took a 12-10 lead, overcoming a 10-run first inning by VC when it scored five in the third.



Cat Girls Softball Team



The Mulvane girls softball team will be looking for its first victory of the year Saturday, April 15, when they play in a Wichita tournament. Members of the squad are, front row from left, Shaunda Smith, Carrie Mintzer, Suzie Rudd, Jenny Hashbarger; second row, Stacy Palmer, Delinda Gonzales, Holly Donaldson, Shanda Vangas; back row, Nancy Winter, head coach; DeVon Jackson, Amy Lowe, Karen Burdette, Pam Landin and Dale Landes, assistant coach.

First Game

Mulvane 006 000 1-7 10
Circle 330 200 x-8 5

Shanda Vangas and Shaunda Smith; Tryncock and Maloney.

Second Game

Mulvane 703 10-11 7
Circle 508 62-21 5

Shanda Vangas, Suzie Rudd 5, and Shaunda Smith; Liz Berlin and Maloney.
HR—Schubert (C).

First Game

Valley Center 400 25-34 12
Mulvane 000 00-0 6

Schubert and Pomeroy; Shanda Vangas and Shaunda Smith.

Second Game

Valley Center 000 00-0 4
Mulvane 000 00-0 7

Schubert and Pomeroy; Shanda Vangas and Shaunda Smith.

HR—Schubert (C).