

Softballers Drop To 'Rock Bottom'

They say you have to hit bottom before you can head back up, and that's where Mulvane High School softball coach Nancy Winter feels she's headed—up.

The MHS girls are still without a victory this season after a double setback Monday, April 24, at McPherson. The host Bulldogs battered Mulvane, 18-3, in the first game, then measured out a 16-1 verdict to run Mulvane's record to 0-11.

"We're improving every time out," noted Winter. "It's just taking a while to get to the point where we can play good, competitive high school ball, and we're not there yet, but we're headed that way."

Neither game was much of a test. McPherson scored 12 runs in the first inning of the first game and chalked up a seven-run first in the nightcap.

The Cats pushed across three runs in the last inning in the first game when Delinda Gonzales scratched out a bunt single. Walks to Holly Donaldson and Shanda Vangas and two stolen bases set the stage for a two-run single by Shaunda Smith. Vangas then scored on a passed ball.

The only Wildcat mark in the second game came in the second when Suzie Rudd walked, stole second and scored when Karen Burdette singled.

Gonzales was MHS's top player on the day as she was on base two times, didn't make an error in eight fielding tries and stole two bases.

The girls will be trying for their first win today (April 27) when they trek to El Dorado for a 5 p.m. doubleheader.

There were some bright spots for the MHS softballers even though Derby blasted Mulvane in two games Thursday, April 20, in Mulvane. The Panthers scored 17 runs in the opening frame and that carried them to a 22-0 victory in the first game. Derby won the second game, 12-1.

"That second game was our best show-

ing of this season," praised Winter, whose team slipped to their eighth and ninth losses of the year. "We got a good pitching performance from Shanda Vangas, we played much better defensively and the outfield (of Jenny Hashbarger, Suzie Rudd and Stacey Palmer) did a great job."

Vangas struck out four and went five innings, giving up seven hits. She also closed out the final four innings of the opener.

Mulvane had only one hit in the first game and four more in the nightcap. The Cats scored their lone run in the third inning when Delinda Gonzales walked, stole second and third and scored on a Vangas base knock.

"The big problem all day was our hitting," added Winter. "Their pitcher just overpowered us in the first game. These girls haven't had the benefit of a jayvee program to help develop hitting skills and their hitting suffers the post.

"We had to reshuffle several positions because of an injury to Amy Lowe but Heather Donaldson did a very good job at first base and Gonzales did a fine job at her new position at third, so that didn't seem to hurt us."

First Game

Mulvane	000 3-3 2
McPherson	(12)60 0-18 7
Shanda Vangas, Suzie Rudd 2, and Shaunda Smith; Vance and Thacker.	

Second Game

Mulvane	010 0-1 4
McPherson	702 7-16 1
Suzie Rudd and Shaunda Smith; Blue and Riedel.	

First Game

Derby	(17)00 4-22 10
Mulvane	000 00-0 0
Eliason and Foster; Suzie Rudd, Shanda Vangas 1, and Shaunda Smith.	
HR—D. Shea (D).	

Second Game

Derby	312 24-12 8
Mulvane	001 00-1 0
Knappe and Foster; Shanda Vangas and Shaunda Smith.	
HR—D. Shea.	