

# Cat Girls Jump Off To Rocky Beginning

It was a rocky start for the Mulvane High School softball squad in an unusual three-team "doubleheader" to open the season Monday, April 1, at Maize.

New softball coach Charlie Mason had to settle for the back seat in both games as his youthful Wildcats were spanked, 21-8, in the first game by Andover. Maize stopped the Wildcats, 20-1, in the second game.

"I thought we'd do a little better job than we did," admitted Mason, who replaced Dale Landes after last season. "We made too many errors on balls we should have been able to field. After I got home and looked at things, I'm probably not as disappointed as I was. We have only two people who played to any extent last year, (Shaunda) Smith and (Terri) Holman."

Mason said the Cats' inexperience showed through. "We were looking at first and third all day," said Mason. "We walked too many people and that makes things tough. I know we walked 16 in the first game and we were in double digits in the second game, too.

"For us to be in the ball game, we're going to have to keep the ball in play. We can't give up extra runs through walks and errors. That's taking nothing away from Maize because they had a super team that is already 4-0. They have an outstanding pitcher but we got some good swings against her."

The Cats had two hits against Maize. Catcher Smith had a triple and Lee Banzet, a freshman, had a single.

In the opener against Andover, Mulvane was in the game after scoring three times in the first but the Trojans broke away with eight runs in the 3rd, then iced it with eight more in the 4th.

In the first inning, MHS scored three times with the help of a couple errors and Heather Pearman's first of two singles.

## Maize Triangular

Mulvane	303 11—8 4
Andover	418 8x—21 14
Terri Holman, Stacy Taylor 4, and Shaunda Smith; Martin and Ellington.	
Mulvane	000 10—1 2
Maize	794 0x—20 13
Stacy Taylor, Heather Pearman 4, and Dawn Hicks, Shaunda Smith 2; Koons and Palmer.	
HR—Wishart (Ma.).	

Holman reached on a fielder's choice with Tammy Maxey being thrown out at second. She scored when Smith's grounder was booted by the first baseman. Smith scored when Stacy Taylor's grounder was errored at short and Taylor scored when Pearman singled.

Dawn Hicks ignited the 3rd when she singled with no outs. Smith walked and both scored on a base knock by Taylor, and Taylor came around to score on Pearman's second hit.

The only offensive noise for the Wildcats against Maize came in the 4th after the game already was decided with the Eagles on top, 20-0. Smith tripled and scored on a ground out by Taylor.

Mason said there still were a number of bright spots for the Cats. "Smith did a fine job behind the plate and Tammy Maxey, a freshman in her first game, did an excellent job," noted Mason. "Heather Pearman came in in the last two innings of the second game and pitched well. She kept the ball in play. So, we have some things to build on. When you're playing as many young and inexperienced people as we are, you can build. We need to do a little better job in the outfield, keep the ball in play more and cut down on our errors and walks. These are things we can work on."

The Wildcats will be back in action at home today (April 4) when Buhler is in Mulvane for a 4 p.m. doubleheader. The games will be played at the Mulvane sports complex. This is the first year the girls' softball games are being played at the complex.