

Cat Baseballers In Best Form Early

What more could a coach ask for. Coach Dave Katzenmeier's Mulvane High School baseball squad started its season successfully Wednesday, March 29, with an 18-8 shelacking of Attica.

"I can't be too unhappy, after all, we scored 18 runs, ripped 18 hits and played well defensively, not to mention got a great pitching job out of Adam Morris," said Katzenmeier. "But I'm weighing that against the fact that we were playing a 1A school. We're going to be jumping up about four or five notches this week"

The Wildcats, playing in chilly weather at home Wednesday, got things started against Attica in the third inning and that was the end of the game. Mulvane scored 12 times in the third inning to turn the game into a five-inning contest. Originally, the two teams were to have played Monday, March 27, at Attica in a non-league doubleheader but that was rained out and rescheduled here.

"For a first game, though, we played all right," admitted Katzenmeier. "I'm real happy about scoring 18 runs. Eighteen runs is 18 runs and I don't care who it's against. I thought our kids came out early and got behind because we were a little tense and tight. After we got it going, we started knocking it around, and their staff wasn't too deep."

Katzenmeier also was pleased with his pitching staff, although he only had to use Morris. He went the distance and scattered 10 hits. "I couldn't be any happier for Adam, getting his first win and going all the way. I was going to go with three inning stints, but we started getting the big lead and it was evident it was only going to go five," said the MHS coach. "I decided we might as well let him finish up. He did an excellent job, and didn't appear to tire, either."

Katzenmeier also was tickled with his defense. "We were in the right place doing the right things," said Katzenmeier. "If you're going to make an error, that's going to happen but getting into the correct positions, that's what we're looking for right now."

Attica	221	03-8	10
Mulvane	13	(12)2-18	18

Welch, Swearingen 2, Teatler 3, Ricky 3, and Gordon;
Adam Morris and Chad Phipps.

Attica made things interesting in the first two quarters. The visitors took a 4-1 lead after one and one-half innings, then made it 5-4 after the Cats had scored three times in the second inning to tie it. Morris, Scott Young and Don Holman all had RBI singles in the second to set the stage for the gigantic third inning rally, most of it occurring with no outs.

Jeremy Miller ignited the rally with a triple, then scored on Chad Phipps' double. John Fleming singled for a run, Steve Langholtz doubled before Gary Cleverdon drilled a two-run double and Mulvane was off and running.

Before the inning was over, Miller had two hits and two runs in the inning and so did Phipps, Fleming and Cleverdon.

Fleming finished with three runs scored and two hits. Cleverdon had two hits and three runs batted in, Young, Phipps and Miller each had three hits and two runs scored. Miller broke up the game with a bases-loaded, three run single in the third.

Other players with two hits apiece were Holman, Fleming and Morris.

"We still have a lot of innings to go," added Katzenmeier. "Our kids are pretty experienced. Many of them have started at one time or another last year and if the defense holds up and our pitchers can keep it going, we may do all right. We definitely have to keep the opposition's run totals down, though."

Mulvane will be stepping up in the world today (April 6) when they travel to do battle against Maize in a 3 p.m. doubleheader. Maize is new in the Chisholm Trail League this season and is playing its first season of baseball. The games will be held at the West Urban Complex at 13th and Ridge in Wichita.