

Split Opener

MHS Bright Spots Show BB Promise

Mulvane High School baseball coach Dave Katzenmeier likes to look at the bright side of things, and coming away from the season opener Monday night, April 2, at Winfield with a split was at least semi-bright.

"We got a win in the book so it wasn't all bad," said Katzenmeier, the veteran skipper. "We've got lots of room for improvement, though. We made some normal early season mistakes which we will be ironing out in the coming weeks, but I saw an awful lot of good things."

The Wildcats opened the year by watching Winfield's Vikings slide past by an 8-4 count even though Mulvane out-hit Winfield, 14-6. In the nightcap, the Cats scored eight runs in the first three innings, then held on behind sophomore righthander Jarrod Oldridge, who scattered seven hits.

"I was pleasantly surprised because our veterans did a real good job and some of our youth came forward and did a good job," added Katzenmeier. "Larry Dixon (a sophomore) is one good example. He came through in centerfield and went 4-for-6. Scott Young had a good game and Scott Proctor had a good day in the field, and so did Gary Cleverdon.

"But I know we can get better, or we had better get better because the competition will do nothing but get stiffer."

The bright spots for the Cat coach really stand out, though. "I saw a lot of good things," said Katzenmeier. "We run up 14 runs in the first two games and that's putting out quite a few singles, especially since there wasn't a lot of batting practice for us lately. It's pleasing to see.

"The second bright spot was our fielding. I don't think we had many errors. We had a lot of attempts, so the kids were going a good job. And the third area where I saw good things was pitching. Oldridge did an exceptional job for this time of year. Coach Cowan and I weren't going to stay with anybody for more than three or four

First Game

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mulvane | 230 010 0-6 14 |
| Winfield | 420 002 x-8 6 |
| John Fleming, Randy Young 4, and Jarrod Oldridge; Cory Miller and Macera Land. | |
| HR —Macera Land, Bryan Hanes (W). | |

Second Game

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mulvane | 233 000 0-8 6 |
| Winfield | 013 000 0-4 7 |
| Jarrod Oldridge and John Fleming; Bolune, Randall 4, and Triel. | |
| HR —Bolune (W). | |

innings, but he was throwing so well, we stayed with him."

In the opener, two homers and two doubles did most of the damage against senior righthander John Fleming, who gave up only six hits. However, a three-run shot in the first ended a four-run inning and a two-run homer in the second was damaging, giving the Vikings the early lead. The back-to-back doubles in the sixth inning drove home two runs—the winning runs.

Mulvane scored twice in the first on RBI singles by Fleming and Oldridge, then added three more in the second when Dixon and Scott Young doubled and Randy

Young and Cleverdon both singled. Mulvane's only other scoring came in the 5th when Dixon slapped a single, went to second on a stolen base, took third on an interference call and scored on a steal.

The Cats got off to another hot start in the second game, scoring all eight runs in the first three innings. Scott Young walked to start the two-run uprising in the first. Cleverdon flew to right but his hit was errored and after a walk to Fleming, Proctor laced an RBI single. Oldridge reached on an error which scored Cleverdon.

Hits by Dixon, Robert Young and Cleverdon plated three in the second and Dixon's double scored two more in the third and Scott Young drove another run in on a single.

That was more than enough for the sophomore sensation Oldridge, who spaced seven hits and walked only two in his varsity debut. He struck out six.

The Cats will be back on the field with their 1-1 mark at 5 p.m. today when Maize comes to Mulvane for a Chisholm Trail League twinbill. The series will begin at 4 p.m.