

Two From Circle

Boys Fumble Lead, Swept By Panthers

The door was left ajar and Nickerson charged through.

The Mulvane High School Wildcat baseballers had the defending 4A state champs on the ropes in a Chisholm Trail League doubleheader Monday, April 23, in Mulvane.

However, Nickerson battled back to nab a 17-10 triumph in the first game, then silenced the Wildcat bats for a 6-3 verdict in the second contest.

MHS Coach David Katzenmeier was philosophical about blowing a 10-8 lead in the last inning. "They've got a good ball club but we couldn't shut the door," he said. "We had them on the ropes early and couldn't put them away. In the bottom of the seventh, they exploded. We had a couple costly errors, too. We needed a little extra and didn't get it. They got a rally going and that was it."

The Panthers scored eight runs in the last inning to put it on cruise control despite being out-hit, 11-7, by Mulvane. "We really wanted that first one," added Katzenmeier. "They are 12-0 now and I think we proved we're capable of playing with them. It was a lesson we had to learn, I guess, and I think we're better for it. It's never over til it's over. The second lesson is that a good ball club can come back in the seventh. That's an attitude a good ball club needs and maybe, someday, we'll pick up on that. That separates the men from the boys."

Overall, however, Katzenmeier felt the Cats played well against the undefeated Panthers. "We didn't play too badly," admitted the MHS skipper. "We had a couple costly errors at critical points of each game. We're doing things mostly right, though. We're hitting the ball. It's just a matter of finishing out business and doing things right."

Randy Young, designated hitter Darryl White and Larry Dixon each had two hits. Scott Proctor and Young each scored twice and John Fleming had a two-run homer.

First Game

Nickerson	430 001 8	17	7
Mulvane	610 210 0	10	11
Fredricken, Barkley 4, Logan 7, and Worley; Jarrod Oldridge and Daniel Myers, John Fleming 7			
HR - Barkley, Simmons, Ty Quillen (N), John Fleming (M)			

Second Game

Nickerson	113 001 0	6	5
Mulvane	002 010 0	3	6
Gruffish, Bradford 3, and Worley, Randy Young and Jarrod Oldridge			
HR - Elston (N)			

First Game

Mulvane	000 011 12	5	8
Circle	000 300 00	3	3
Rob Swindle, Randy Young 4, and Jarrod Oldridge, Swan and Lowmaster			

Second Game

Mulvane	605 701 0	19	26
Circle	035 201 0	11	13
Robert Glaser, Randy Young 4, Danny Daniels 5, Jarrod Oldridge 6, and Oldridge, Daniel Myers 6, Vanda, Clevenger 3, and Lowmaster			
HR - John Fleming (M)			

In the nightcap, Randy Young spaced five hits but Nickerson was able to scrape together three runs in the 3rd to take a 5-1 lead against Young.

The Cats tried to pull a page from Nickerson's first game comeback, scoring twice in the bottom of the third inning when Larry Dixon walked and scored when Randy Young singled. Young scored when Proctor drilled a double.

Mulvane scored one more time. Proctor started with a double in the 5th. Fleming doubled him in. Jarrod Oldridge followed with a single to put runners at the corners with no outs, but White and Gary Cleverdon both flew out and Steve Langholtz fanned.

Mulvane wasn't done, though, as Oldridge singled and Cleverdon walked in the 7th but the Wildcats couldn't do any damage.

The Wildcats climbed over the .500 mark for the first time this season as they swept two games Thursday, April 19, at Circle, dropping the Thunderbirds, 5-3, in the opener and 19-11 in the nightcap.

The first game went extra innings and made righthanded junior Young a winner. Young didn't allow a run in his three

innings pitched, giving up only one hit.

Mulvane won it with a pair of 8th inning runs after tying it at 3-3 in the top of the 7th to force extra frames. After one out, Scott Young walked on four straight pitches. He went to second on a ground out by Randy Young and scored on Proctor's base hit to left. Proctor came on to score when Fleming slapped a single.

The Cats tied things in the 7th when Oldridge walked on a 3-2 pitch. He took second when Cleverdon grounded out and scored on a clutch one-bagger by White.

In the second game, the hitting shoes were on high--the Cats bagged 26 hits to pound out the easy win with Fleming doing some serious damage. He went 6-for-7 and knocked in six runs, including three on a three run homer to highlight a five-run third inning.