

Cats' Katz Looking For More

He may be 5-2 but he's not relaxing a bit. Veteran Mulvane High School baseball coach Dave Katzenmeier is pleased but he's also realistic after the Wildcats topped Andover Monday evening, April 8, at the Mulvane sports complex.

The Cats held off the Trojans, 5-4, in the opener and strided out to a 9-4 winner in the second game to improve their record to 5-2 as they head into a big doubleheader today (April 11) at Wellington.

"Sure, we're felling pretty good about things at this time, but the toughest part of our schedule is coming up," said Katzenmeier. "We're still not playing the way we need to be playing, but we're improving. We're making a lot of senseless plays but I'm not concerned about them because I know in time those plays will be made."

Katzenmeier said having the easiest part of the schedule early was going to be a boon for his youthful warriors. "It's giving us an opportunity to have more success early while we're learning," noted Katzenmeier. "We still haven't seen three or four of the tougher teams in the league and we're going to have to be doing things right to compete with them...we're not there but we're getting there."

Righthander Jarrod Oldridge had his best outing of the season, raising his record to 2-2 as he held Andover to four hits and fanned 13. "It was his best outing as far as pitches," said the Cat coach. "He was pitching ahead of the batters instead of from behind all the time."

The Wildcats wiped out a 1-0 deficit with a pair of runs in the 4th inning when Oldridge doubled and scored on Gary Cleverdon's base knock. Cleverdon came in to score when Steve Nelson looped a double. Neil Andersen kept the rally going with a single but Jeremy Kendrick flew out.

Three more runs were plated in the 5th when Larry Dixon singled, catcher Chuck Rollins walked and so did Oldridge and all three scored on a series of errors and passed balls which was followed by David Boyer's base hit.

MHS put its offense in gear in the second game, hammering out nine hits, four of them singles by Nelson, who was 4-for-4 with two runs scored.

Mulvane tied things up in the 6th, scoring three times to take a five-run lead. Robert Glaser, who had two hits earlier, walked and so did Rollins. After two outs, Boyer doubled in the chute in left-centerfield and Nelson followed with an RBI single.

That was more than enough to help Jamie Belden weather a little wildness in the 7th inning (he had two walks) to notch

the victory. His record is 3-0. The freshman righthander scattered five hits and struck out four.

It was feast or famine for the Wildcat baseballers Thursday, April 4, when Buhler came to town for a Chisholm Trail League series at the Mulvane sports complex. The visiting Crusaders nabbed the first game, 4-0, but the Wildcats held off a late charge by Buhler in the second game for a 5-4 decision.

There wasn't much offense to back Mulvane ace righthander Oldridge, a junior, in the opener. Even though he gave up only four hits, three of them being damaging doubles, he was tagged for the tough-luck loss. The Cats managed only three safeties. Nelson singled with one out in the 2nd, Kendrick singled to left to start the 5th and Cleverdon had a leadoff single in the 6th but Buhler's Ken Hamby was tough as only one MHS runner made it past second base, spoiling a 12-strikeout effort by Oldridge.

The Cats got in the scoring column early in the second game as Dixon walked to start the game, stole second and went to third on a passed ball, scoring on Rollins' sacrifice fly to center.

Mulvane added four more in the second when Buhler's pitching went to sleep, issuing seven walks. Cleverdon started the frame with a walk. Nelson, Ronnie Feikert and Belden all walked to force in a run. Dixon walked on four straight pitches and Glaser waited out a walk to bring in a couple more. Oldridge also walked for the 4th run. Boyer had two hits for the Wildcats and Cleverdon



First Game

Andover	010 003 0—4 4
Mulvane	000 230 x—5 8

Patterson and Coleman; Jarrod Oldridge and Chuck Rollins.

Second Game

Andover	110 300 0—5 5
Mulvane	123 003 x—9 9

Newton, Coleman 6, and Coleman, Kilgore 6.

First Game

Buhler	000 101 2—4 4
Mulvane	000 000 0—0 3

Ken Hamby and Balzer; Jarrod Oldridge, Robert Glaser 6, and Chuck Rollins.

Second Game

Buhler	000 002 2—4 4
Mulvane	140 000 x—5 4

Parks and Balzer; Jamie Belden and Chuck Rollins.

and Jeremy Kendrick had one apiece.

The freshman Belden was the winning hurler, although he was hanging on at the end as the Crusaders scored two in the 6th and 6 more in the 7th and had two runners on before Belden was able to get out of the jam to run his record to 2-0.

"We're starting to get some timely hitting but not enough of it," said Katzenmeier. "The kids aren't as aggressive at bat as they need to be and anything off-speed, we're looking pretty bad. We haven't learned to hit off-speed yet but that comes with maturity, seeing pitches and playing time. In the first game, that's all the Buhler kid threw at us."