

# Cats Let Hornets Off Hook

Mulvane's baseballers let a golden opportunity slide past Monday night, April 15, and had to settle for a split of a double-header against Chisholm Trail League sister, Valley Center.

The Wildcats dug their own grave in the opener with several errors behind ace pitcher Jarrod Oldridge and had to settle for a 9-8 setback. The Cats came back in the second game with fire in their eyes and trounced the Hornets, 13-3, in five innings.

The split improved their record to 7-4 as the team heads into a doubleheader at home against Maize today (April 18). The games are to begin at 3 p.m. at the Mulvane sports complex.

"We probably should have won both games against Valley," said Dave Katzenmeier, the Wildcat skipper. "We didn't play well in the first game, we didn't play good, sound baseball and made some mistakes that I wasn't very happy about, none of the other coaches were happy with it either. These were things we could control but we didn't control them."

Katzenmeier said he pointed those problems out to the players in between games and the Cats came out with "much more desire" in the nightcap. "We had a better



ball game, too," said Katzenmeier. "We hit the ball and we didn't take all those mental mistakes that hurt us in the first game. Our pitching wasn't as solid but Jamie (Belden) did a fine job coming in and finishing up in the last two innings."

Mulvane grabbed a quick, 4-0, lead against the VC Hornets when Larry Dixon tripled to start the game, then scored on Chuck Rollins' ground out. Mulvane scored three more in the 3rd when Robert Glaser singled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Rollins. Oldridge then reached on an error before Gary Cleverdon and David Boyer stroked RBI singles.

After VC came on strong in the 4th and 5th with six runs to take the lead, the

Wildcats nearly rallied to win it in the 7th with two runs and had the bases filled but left all three stranded.

Rollins started that last-ditch push with a one-out single and Oldridge also singled, both scoring when VC errored a drive to left by Gary Cleverdon. Boyer walked before hot-hitting Steve Nelson fanned. After Schaan Buford walked to fill the bases, Ronnie Feikert struck out to end the game.

In the nightcap, Oldridge slapped three hits and scored three runs. Rollins scored three times and had a hit. Both Dixon and Glaser scored two runs and had two hits, Glaser also getting two RBIs, and Boyer had two RBIs with a single in the 5th.

The Cats battled their way to a CTL road split in a twinbill Thursday, April 11, at Wellington. Mulvane won the first game, 6-3, behind the outstanding mound job by junior Oldridge, who posted a six-hit effort, before the Crusaders came back in the nightcap for a 10-3 triumph.

Oldridge had only eight strikeouts, a season-low mark, but kept the ball in play to escape with the win. He also had seven free passes and worked out of trouble most of the game, stranding 12 runners on base.

Mulvane jumped out quickly at Wellington as Dixon stated the game with four consecutive balls. Rollins reached on

an error and both scored when Cleverdon singled to leftfield. Dixon scored again in the second inning to give Oldridge a 3-0 cushion when he homered.

Oldridge helped his own cause in the third inning when he singled and scored on an error. Cleverdon reached base on a fielder's choice before David Boyer walked after a balk moved Cleverdon to second. Nelson followed with the first of his three singles, scoring Cleverdon.

Mulvane's only other score came in the 6th when Rollins reached base on a fielder's choice. Oldridge walked after Rollins stole second and went to third on a passed ball, and Cleverdon connected for a single to left-centerfield, scoring Rollins.

The only offensive noise for the Cats in the second game came in the three-run third even though Rollins had three singles and Nelson had two more to pace an eight-hit attack.

Rollins singled to start the uprising. Both Oldridge and Cleverdon walked on four straight pitches to fill the bases before Boyer singled to drive in two runs and the third scored on a single by Nelson.

Mulvane starter Jamie Belden lost his control in the 2nd inning, walking three straight to fill the bases and forcing one run in with a hit batsman following a lead-off homer by Josh Gooch.

**First Game**

Valley Center 002 420 1-9 9  
 Mulvane 104 100 2-8 8  
 Rutschman and Edwards; Oldridge and Chuck Rollins.  
 HR—Hartley, Stuelow (VC).

**Second Game**

Valley Center 200 10-3 3  
 Mulvane 006 34-13 9  
 Freed, Hightower 3, and McPhosters; Chad Nichols,  
 Jamie Belden 4, and Chuck Rollins.

**First Game**

Mulvane 212 001 0-6 10  
 Wellington 000 300 0-3 6  
 Jarrod Oldridge and Chuck Rollins; Josh Gooch and  
 Ryan Dwyer.  
 HR—Larry Dixon (M).

**Second Game**

Mulvane 003 000 0-3 8  
 Wellington 044 002 x-10 6  
 Jamie Belden, Robert Glaser 3, Chad Nichols 4, David  
 Boyer 6, and Chuck Rollins; Jeremy Troutman and Ryan  
 Dwyer.  
 HR—Josh Gooch (W).