

It Was Special-- Wildcats Rebound

After getting blown away in their last outing, the Mulvane High School baseball boys needed something special--and got it.

The Rose Hill Rockets came to Mulvane Monday, May 4, and the Wildcats gave them a double dose of pitching and hitting in a doubleheader sweep. Mulvane hammered Rose Hill, 12-1, in the first game, then made RH swallow a bitter pill in the nightcap, a 1-0 Cat winner.

The two wins left Coach David Katzenmeier's squad at 10-5 and gave Mulvane a measure of hope following a thrashing handed the Cats by Goddard last Thursday.

"We needed a couple of wins and we got them," said Katzenmeier. "We played fairly good in the first game but in the second game, we fell back into our 'lead pipe bat' syndrome. We got by, though, and got out of there with two. (Robert) Glaser threw a wonderful ball game."

Senior Jarrod Oldridge threw a wonderful game in the opener after having his worst outing of the season against Goddard. He held Rose Hill to only four hits, walked three and fanned eight. The junior Glaser took up the challenge in the second game and pitched even better. He gave up only two hits, walked two and struck out six in a career outing.

"Glaser threw a complete ball game and he pitched with a lot of confidence," added Katzenmeier. "He's been doing that all year long, but in relief. He'll go for four or five innings. He's been doing the job with good confidence and that's good to see."

Oldridge returning to top-notch form was also good to see. A thumb injury seemed to bother the righthander last week. "He was strong the whole game against Rose Hill," said Katzenmeier. "He got some extra rest because he didn't throw long against Goddard and I think that helped. It was back to what we've been seeing out of Jarrod--good pitching and good control."

Katzenmeier also liked what he saw defensively after a very suspect game in the nightcap against Goddard. "We were much better on defense both (Rose Hill) games," stated the Cat skipper. "We only had one bad inning and the rest of the time we played good defense. That's what we have to do to be successful."

The Wildcat batsmen also had more success against Rose Hill's young staff. "What I liked about it was we got some hits, we advanced runners and we scored off making contact at the plate," said Katzenmeier. "I have been emphasizing all along that you have to get the bat on the ball and make something happen. We can take it from there if we do."



First Game

Rose Hill 000 01--1 4
Mulvane 502 5x-12 9
Erik Landon, Cory Grove 4, and David Ruafr; Jarrod Oldridge and Chuck Rollins.

Second Game

Rose Hill 000 000 0-0 2
Mulvane 000 010 x-1 6
Ryan Nelson and James Juniell; Robert Glaser and Chuck Rollins.

First Game

Goddard 537 02--17 11
Mulvane 300 00--3 7
Welner and Summers; Jarrod Oldridge, David Boyer 2, and Chuck Rollins, Joel Phipps 5.
HR--Summers (G).

Second Game

Goddard 123 004 1--11 11
Mulvane 000 020 0--2 4
Cowel and Summers; Jamie Belden, Robert Glaser 3, and Chuck Rollins, Joel Phipps 6.

Mulvane Jayvee Baseball

First Game

Goddard 00(12) 00--12 11
Mulvane 010 00--1 5
Mulvane battery: Scott Sanchez, Shawn Erbert 3, and Joel Phipps, Roberts 4.

Second Game

Goddard 401 70--12 9
Mulvane 000 00--0 1
Mulvane battery: Doug Landin and Chad Nulik.

First Game

Mulvane 000 00--0 1
Maize 001 1x--2 5
Mulvane battery: Shawn Erbert and Joel Phipps.

Second Game

Mulvane 001 00--1 4
Maize 106 04--11 15
Mulvane battery: Doug Landin and Joel Phipps.

The Wildcats didn't waste any time jumping on the Rockets, who fell to 2-14 for the campaign. Oldridge and catcher Chuck Rollins started a five-run first inning by walking. Both came to the plate on Glaser's double and Glaser scored when David Boyer doubled to left. Senior Gary Cleverdon singled in another run, then scored the last run of the rally when Steve Nelson singled up the middle.

Mulvane added two more in the third on a triple by Oldridge, then put the game away behind a flurry of miscues by the Rockets and Daniel Myers' two-run double and Nelson's second RBI single. That made it 12-0.

The second game was much tighter as Glaser and Ryan Nelson duelled for over four innings without a score. Finally, the Cats squirted a run through the cracks. Cleverdon started the 5th with a single. Pinch-runner Jesse Smith was pushed to

third on walks to Chad Nichols and Nelson before scoring the game's lone run on a Rollins ground out.

Glaser, given a 1-0 lead, held the rest of the way, although he gave up a one-out single in the 6th but worked out of the jam. He walked the lead-off hitter in the seventh and two errors filled the sacks before the final out was made to end the game.

Both Boyer and Cleverdon had two hits in the nightcap to pace the offense.

Goddard knocked the Wildcat Chisholm Trail League title hopes for a loop Thursday, April 30, by sweeping two games from the host Cats. The Lions knocked out MHS ace righthander Oldridge with eight runs in the first inning on the way to a 17-3 victory in the first game. In the nightcap, Mulvane's defense collapsed in an 11-2 setback.

"They played real good and we played real bad," stressed Katzenmeier.

It also didn't help to have Oldridge, who was undefeated going into the Goddard game, come up with a thumb injury earlier in the day. He lasted only one full inning and faced four batters in the second before being relieved by David Boyer, who finished up.

The Lions went ahead, 5-0, in the top of the first, then added three in the second and mopped up with seven more in the third to breeze home.

The Wildcats struck back with three in the bottom of the first when Oldridge walked, went to second on a passed ball, and after a walk to Rollins, Larry Dixon lined a single to center for a run. Robert Glaser's single brought home Rollins and designated hitter Gary Cleverdon singled in the third run.

That was the Cat offense. Mulvane had only four hits the rest of the first game.

In the nightcap, the Mulvane bats were still sleeping, giving the Lions an opportunity to work on sophomore righthander Jamie Belden for one in the first, two more in the second and three in the third. Mulvane answered with two runs in the fifth. Chad Nichols slashed a one-out single to right-centerfield. After a ground out, Oldridge walked and Rollins walked to fill the bases in front of Dixon's double for two RBIs.

The MHS defense, which has been strong all season, fell apart, giving Belden little support. Mulvane committed eight errors, making it easy for Goddard to threaten in every inning.

The Wildcats will get a chance to go for a pair of wins Saturday, May 9, in an unusual Saturday series against Wellington. The two teams will square off at 1 p.m. at the Mulvane sports complex in a make-up series.