

Team Struggling

It's 'Splits-ville' For Wildcat Baseballers

Four opponents. Four splits. That's not what Mulvane High School baseball coach David Katzenmeier envisioned as he headed into this season.

The Wildcats stand at 4-4 as they head into the toughest part of their season in the next two weeks. The Cats will be at Wellington today (April 15) for a Chisholm Trail League twinbill starting at 4 p.m.

The last week, Mulvane split double-headers with Andover and Buhler. The Trojans were in town Monday, April 12, and Mulvane barely escaped with a split by scoring two runs in the bottom of the last inning for a 6-5 winner in the second game. Andover won the opener, 8-1.

Thursday, April 8, Buhler was at the Mulvane sports complex and the Crusaders pulled out the split by scoring five runs in the top of the 8th inning for an 11-6 verdict after the Wildcats nosed out Buhler, 7-6, in extra innings in the first game.

"We just have a lot of work to do," confessed Katzenmeier about his veteran-studded ball club. "We have to get a lot tougher between the ears and we have to see what we're made of. We need to challenge people and take the field with authority. We're not doing that right now."

In the 8-1 loss to Andover, Katzenmeier said his troops "just weren't ready." Mulvane's only run came in the fifth when Larry Dixon was hit by a pitch, stole second and scored on Daniel Myers' rope to centerfield.

Mulvane won the nightcap after the

Trojans had taken a 5-4 lead with two in their half of the last inning. Dixon singled to start the rally in the seventh. Tom Nienke, who had two hits earlier, reached on an error and Dixon scored. After a base hit by Jay Schlegel, Nienke scored from third when Steve Nelson grounded out, ending the game.

That was just enough to give Myers his first win. He pitched well, giving up only three hits and struck out eight.

The Buhler series was a stunning success from a fan standpoint but was tough on the coaching staff because both games went into extra innings. Mulvane scored once in the ninth inning to win the opener. Robert Glaser slapped a one-out single to left. Dixon reached on a fielder's choice and Chad Nichols walked to fill the bases with

FIRST GAME

Andover	100 123 1—8 7
Mulvane	000 010 0—1 3

Walker and Nash; Jamie Belden, Scott Sanchez, 6, and Joel Phipps.

SECOND GAME

Andover	001 002 2—5 3
Mulvane	100 021 2—6 8

Cory Shackelford, Zack Siegrist 5, and Smith; Daniel Myers and Joel Phipps.

FIRST GAME

Buhler	020 400 000—6 8
Mulvane	003 010 001—7 8

Ratzlaff, Nolde 6, and Trimmell; Robert Glaser, Daniel Myers 5, and Joel Phipps.

SECOND GAME

Buhler	021 000 35—11 11
Mulvane	103 000 20—6 6

Webbie, Neil 3, Nolde 6, and Trimmell; Jamie Belden, Daniel Myers 7, Scott Sanchez 8, and Joel Phipps.

two out. Schaan Buford's grounder to the right side was booted, allowing Glaser to race home, ending the game.

"Effort is something I demand and right now, I don't know that I'm getting it," said the veteran MHS coach. "Effort is all I want and it's not there now, not like it needs to be. We just need to go out there and let both barrels blow."

Mulvane's best inning was a four-run third inning. Nelson and Glaser started the frame with base hits. After an out, Dixon singled for one run, Schlegel plated another run with a sacrifice fly to center and Buford laced a base hit for a third run. Buford later scored on a passed ball.

Glaser, Jeremy Kendrick and Dixon had two hits apiece in that game, and Glaser and Nelson scored twice.

Buhler returned the favor in the second game by scoring five times in the first extra inning. Mulvane failed to score, although the Cats scored two clutch runs in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into extra innings. Nichols reached on an error and went to third on a passed ball. Nienke pounded a base hit to right-center, scoring Nichols. Schlegel reached on a fielder's choice and scored on a balk but the Wildcats left a runner in scoring position that could have iced the sweep.

"We didn't get the job done," said Katzenmeier. "It has been a chore to score runs, a chore to play defense. We're making the game harder than it is sometimes."