

Boys Shelled

Cats Scratching Heads After VC

It was time to run for cover Monday night, April 19, at the Mulvane sports complex. Valley Center was in a hitting mood.

The Hornets invaded Mulvane and beat up the struggling Cats in both ends of a Chisholm Trail League doubleheader. Valley popped four homers in the first game on the way to a 16-5 triumph. In the nightcap, Mulvane fell by a 10-0 count.

The double loss left the Wildcats of Coach Dave Katzenmeier stranded at 4-8 for the season. "Valley just hit the ball, we didn't," said Katzenmeier. "The wind was blowing straight east and they had some good lefthanded power. We're not hitting the ball well and that makes it just that much tougher, but we just have to get out and get after it. Hopefully, things will improve. We need timely hitting, hitting when we have people in scoring position."

The Wildcats also will be without top pitcher Robert Glaser, too, at least for a while. Glaser was sidelined with a sore arm and the Cat coach said he would miss at least one more turn.

The Hornets pounded out to a 3-0 lead and made it 4-0 before Mulvane tried to get competitive, scoring three times in the bottom of the second. Tim Richardson was hit by a pitch and Jeremy Kendrick reached on a fielder's choice. Chad Nichols walked to fill the bases before Jamie Belden's double delivered three runs.

Larry Dixon's two-run homer in the third inning after Glaser had singled were the last runs of the day for Mulvane.

In the second game, Mulvane only had four hits, singles by Steve Nelson, Kendrick, Dixon and Casey Myers.

The Wildcats were at Wellington for a pair Friday, April 16, but the scores don't reflect the level of play by the Cats. The host Crusaders walked away with a 6-5 extra-inning verdict in the opener, then squeezed past Mulvane, 5-4, in the second game.

"We probably played out best two ball games of the year," pointed out Katzenmeier. "I wasn't unhappy. I told the kids afterwards that that was the type of effort we were shooting for. It would have been nice to have won but that doesn't happen all the time. I felt like I got what I wanted. I went down to Wellington looking for some effort and desire, and I saw it."

Although Mulvane out-hit the Crusaders in both games, walks eventually brought down the house for Mulvane. The Cats rapped 12 hits in the first game and scored a run in the top of the 8th inning but Myers couldn't hold the lead.

"Robert (Glaser) threw a wonderful game in the first one and Danny (Myers) came in and finished it, then started the second game," added Katzenmeier. "Scott Sanchez finished the second game. I couldn't have asked for more out of my staff. They did a good job but just couldn't hold them. They got a couple clutch hits in the extra inning game, one of them was a bloop single that would have been caught had it been hit another 10 feet." Glaser had

FIRST GAME

Valley Center	315 34—16 11
Mulvane	032 00—5 4

Glaser and Davidson; Jamie Belden, Scott Sanchez 3, Schaan Buford 5, and Joel Phipps.
HR—Cravens, 2, Edwards, Nieman, (VC); Larry Dixon (M).

SECOND GAME

Valley Center	432 01—10 8
Mulvane	000 00—0 4

Glover and Davidson; Noel Magee, Schaan Buford 2, Casey Myers 4, and Joel Phipps.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	010 210 01—5 12
Wellington	000 022 02—6 5

Robert Glaser, Daniel Myers 7, and Joel Phipps; Jeremy Troutman and Hinshaw.

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	000 220 0—4 7
Wellington	100 040 x—5 4

Daniel Myers, Scott Sanchez 5, and Joel Phipps; Jesse Cornejo and Hinshaw.



a one-hitter through five innings and Wellington finished with five.

The Wildcat skipper also praised the good defensive work by Mulvane, especially centerfielder Dixon. "Larry made two or three major league catches in centerfield," said Katzenmeier. "Overall, we played pretty good defense."

Steve Nelson went 3-for-5, Tim Richardson went 3-for-4 with with one RBI and one run scored and Glaser went 2-for-5 in the opener. Tom Nienke also had two hits, one RBI and scored once for the Wildcats.

Mulvane came through with a run in the top of the eighth when Chad Nichols was hit by a pitch, took second on Nelson's third hit and scored when Glaser looped a single to right. The rally came up short when Nelson got nailed at third base. Wellington then won the game in the bottom of the eighth with a couple of runs off three of their five hits in the game.

In the nightcap, the Crusaders made it 1-0 in the first inning but Mulvane scored two in the fourth and made it 4-1 in the fifth before the Crusaders took advantage of two walks and a hit batsman to sustain a four-run inning to win it.

In Mulvane's fourth, Nelson started with a no-out walk, went to second on a passed ball and third on Glaser's base knock. Both runners scored when Dixon ripped a single to right. In the fifth, Mulvane scored when Casey Myers tripled in the gap in right-centerfield and scored when Nichols singled. Nichols scored on a Glaser single.