

Eight Losses In Row

Boys Looking For Answers

Coach David Katzenmeier is performing a juggling act but even that isn't helping the cause. The Mulvane High School baseball team is struggling and the veteran coach can't stop the bleeding.

"We're just facing some real good teams," admitted Katzenmeier. "We didn't play that badly but, maybe, we're just a little out-classed at this point in time. That happens. There are five or six really strong teams in the league, and that's who we've played the last five or six games."

Augusta was in Mulvane Monday night, April 26, for a twinbill at the Mulvane sports complex, and the Orioles kept the sinking Wildcats in their tailspin, handing MHS its seventh and eighth straight losses. Augusta pounded out a 12-2, 16-3 double-header win.

Thursday, April 22, at Maize, the Wildcats were pummeled, 25-9 and 12-1.

Those four losses left the Cats at 4-12 as they head in against another Chisholm Trail League power, Goddard, today (April 29) at Goddard. The games begin at 4 p.m.

Augusta, on the rebound after a couple of down years, finally broke the opener open with four runs in the fourth against junior righthander Jamie Belden to take a 7-0 lead. It was all over after that.

The Cats did break through for a couple runs in the fifth inning when Jeremy Kendrick reached on an error and Larry Dixon homered. It was one of three hits for Dixon, and Robert Glaser had two hits for Mulvane.

In the second game, the Wildcats looked like they were going to break out, scoring three times in the first frame. Senior Steve Nelson singled and Glaser reached on an error. After Dixon walked, Nelson scored on a passed ball before Tom Nienke cracked a two-run double.

Nelson, Nienke and Jay Schlegel each had two hits for Mulvane, which represented most of the offense.

"Overall, we're just playing better talent than we are right now," said Katzenmeier. "Balls are flying out of the park and there's not a lot of defense for that. And we've been facing some pretty good pitching which we haven't been able to compete against. We have to maintain our composure and see if we can't keep things together so we can salvage a regional."

Katzenmeier said a couple of bright spots in the sea of despair are the pitching of Belden and the hitting of Dixon. "It may sound crazy but Jamie had a lot better con-

FIRST GAME

Augusta 003 405—12 10
Mulvane 000 020—2 7
Garst, Heise 6, and Preston; Jamie Belden and Daniel Myears.

HR—Preston, 2, (A); Larry Dixon (M).

SECOND GAME

Augusta 1(10)0 32—16 13
Mulvane 300 00—3 7
Tipton, Miller 4, and Preston; Daniel Myears, Casey Myears 2, Scott Sanchez 2, Michael Abasolo 5, and Joel Phipps.

HR—Buell (A).

FIRST GAME

Mulvane 400 41—9 10
Maize (11)47 3x—25 21
Daniel Myears, Scott Sanchez 2, McGee 3, and Joel Phipps; Phillips and Robertson.

HR—Larry Dixon, Schaan Buford (M); Phillips, Robertson, Clark (Mz).

SECOND GAME

Mulvane 000 01—1 2
Maize 230 07—12 8
Casey Myers, Mike Abasolo 4, Jamie Belden 5, and Joel Phipps, Daniel Myears 4; Eisenbert and Robertson.
HR—Robertson, 2, (Mz).

trol of his pitches Monday," said the Cat coach. "Once we get through the strength of the league, it could pay off. And Dixon is steady and swinging the bat. He is maintaining a good approach and not letting things bother him."

At Maize, Mulvane scored a lot more off the Eagles' top pitcher than most. Schaan Buford slugged a two-run homer in the first and both Chad Nichols and Jeremy Kendrick had two hits. Tim Richardson scored two runs and had one RBI.

An 11-run first inning, however, made the outcome kind of a moot point. Mulvane opened the series with Richardson walking. Kendrick singled for one run and Dixon walked before Buford unloaded.

Mulvane had another four-run inning in the fourth as Richardson, Glaser, Kendrick and Daniel Myears had RBI singles, but by that time, Maize was on its way with a 25-8 lead.

The Wildcat pitching was better in the second game as underclassmen Casey Myers, Mike Abasolo and Belden each took a turn on the hill.

Mulvane's lone score came in the top of the fifth when Glaser singled, followed by walks to Kendrick and Dixon. Buford's grounder to short was muffed, scoring Glaser.