

# Look Out, Newton; Jay's At Bat; Mulvane Goes To 3-1 With Sweep

Good pitching and good defense is the cornerstone of baseball, but if you want to go to downtown Newton, come watch Wildcat Jay Schlegel.

A towering home run to left that was hit "to Newton" sparked a comeback in the second game Monday, April 4, in the home opener for the Mulvane High School Wildcats, and that lifted the Cats to a sweep of two games against Circle.

The double victory, which raised Mulvane's record to 3-1 for the year, came by a 6-2 and 10-7 count at Mulvane sports complex.

Mulvane had mostly smooth sailing in the opener against the Thunderbirds, thanks to the outstanding pitching of senior Jamie Belden, who blanked Circle after two runs in the first inning. Belden finished with a five-hitter, giving up only three hits over the last six innings and striking out 11 during the game.

Leave it to another senior, Schlegel, to organize the excursion to Newton. The Wildcats trailed, 5-3, before exploding for seven runs in the sixth inning. The big blow

**FIRST GAME**  
 Circle 200 000 0-2 6  
 Mulvane 010 410 x-6 10  
 Bodkin, Brack 4, and Miller; Jamie Belden and Chad Nulik.

**SECOND GAME**  
 Circle 010 301 2-7 7  
 Mulvane 100 117 x-10 7  
 Swilley, Brack 4, Shelman 6, and Miller; Scott Sanchez, Casey Myers 4, and Chad Nulik.  
 HR—Jay Schlegel (M).

was a two-run homer by Schlegel.

"Tom Nienke got on in front on Jay and then Schlegel hit one to Newton," exclaimed MHS Coach David Katzenmeier.

The most encouraging aspect of the Circle series for Katzenmeier was that it featured two comeback wins. "It was nice to see our kids come back like that," said Katzenmeier. "We were down in both games at one time or another. It's something you have to learn and we did that. Anytime you win, it's fun, and anytime you rally to win, it's even more fun.

"Our game was pretty solid overall. We hit the ball well at times, although defensively, we weren't quite as sharp as we were last week in the season opener at Nickerson."

The Mulvane pitchers did their part, too. Belden stifled the T-Birds except for the first inning, and in the second game, junior Scott Sanchez spaced four hits into the fourth inning, giving way to Casey Myers, who mopped up and gained the victory. Myers gave up only two hits and walked only two.

"Casey came in in the second game and kept them from scoring any more runs to let our bats catch up with them, and they finally did," said the Cat coach. "I felt like we could score some runs against them. It just took us a whole lot longer in the second game than I anticipated. But we did get it done. In the first game, Jamie had a great win. He had trouble in the early innings again, just like he did last week at Nickerson. I guess we're going to have to get him more sweaty next time."

Mulvane took the lead in the opener behind a four-run fourth to stake Belden to a 5-2 lead he never relinquished. Belden walked to start the rally and Tim Glaser also walked. Both runners scored when Shawn

Erbert hammered a shot to right-centerfield. Nienke reached on a fielder's choice and Erbert scored. After Schlegel walked, Shay Vangas singled for the fourth run.

Erbert, Jesse Smith and Nienke each had two hits and pinch runner Kevin Butler scored three times.

The second game all hinged on the Wildcat rally in the sixth. Designated hitter Myers reached on an error which was followed up by consecutive walks to Sanchez, Chad Nulik and pinch-hitter Jeff Ellis, one run scoring. After one out, Smith pounded a triple which scored three more runs. Smith then scored when Nienke reached on an error and that was followed by Schlegel's two-run shot "to Newton."

In a junior varsity doubleheader at Circle Monday, the Wildcats took the first game, 10-0, and the T-Birds had the punch to come back in the second game, 7-4.

The Cats will be back in action today (April 7) when they go to Buhler for another Chisholm Trail League doubleheader starting at 4 p.m.



Shay Vangas (25) gives a "High Five" to David Butler, who scored in the 4th Inning