

Bat-Burning: A Consideration

Break the bats. Have a "bat-burning." Bring in a witch doctor. All those things went through Mulvane High School baseball coach David Katzenmeier's mind the last week as the Mulvane offense went sour heading down the stretch.

The Wildcats suffered through three consecutive shutouts and four straight losses last week as they saw their tailspin continue through 14 straight defeats.

The Cat record dipped to 4-15 when Andover swept past Mulvane, 4-0 and 10-0, in a doubleheader Monday, May 9, at Andover. In a pair of make-up games Saturday, May 7, at the Mulvane sports complex, Goddard dumped the punchless Cats, 4-1 and 15-0.

"We're just not doing the job at the plate, it's that simple," confessed Katzenmeier. "Somebody's just going to have to step up, dig real deep and bust loose, and maybe it will be contagious. The 4-0 (loss to Andover) doesn't make me feel badly, but we need to score some runs, and it ain't happenin'."

That's an understatement. Mulvane was held to two hits in the first game and three in the finale by Trojan hurlers. Tom Nienke and Shawn Erbert had singles in the first game and only Erbert advanced as far as third base in the game. In the second game, Jesse Smith went 2-for-2 and Erbert had a single but that was all the noise the Wildcat offense could generate.

The anemic offense spoiled a pretty good pitching effort by Casey Myers in the first game. He held the Trojans to only one hit, a harmless single in the first inning, but couldn't control his pitches, walking 11, which led to his downfall.

It was the same story Saturday against Goddard. A near-no-hitter in the first game held Mulvane scoreless until the last inning in the 4-1 loss. Goddard jumped out to an 8-0 lead after two innings in the nightcap and cruised the rest of the way.

Righthander Jamie Belden pitched a fine first game but didn't get much support at the plate as Mulvane was held to only one hit in the opener against Goddard. And that hit, an RBI single by Jake Carmichael in the last inning, broke up a no-hitter for the Lions' hurler.

Prior to that, Mulvane only one base-

Mulvane 4A Regional Baseball Tournament

At Mulvane Sports Complex
MONDAY, MAY 16

Game 1 — Andover (11-9) vs. Mulvane (4-15), 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

Game 2 — Valley Center (14-6) vs. Rose Hill (11-7)*, 3 p.m.

Game 3 — Wellington (15-3)* vs. winner of game No. 1, 5

Game 4 (Championship) — winners of games 2 and 3, 7

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	000 000 0—0 2
Andover	010 210 x—4 2

Casey Myers and Chad Nulik; Hartness and Nash.

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	000 00—0 2
Andover	172 00—10 11

Tim Glaser and Chad Nulik; Justin Holcomb and Nash.

HR—Justin Holcomb (A), 3.

FIRST GAME

Goddard	002 100 1—4 7
Mulvane	000 000 1—2 1

McGarragh and Leckington; Jamie Belden and Chad Nulik.

SECOND GAME

Goddard	350 16—15 10
Mulvane	000 00—0 3

Moss and Leckington; Casey Myers, Scott Sanchez 2, and Chad Nulik.

HR—Kempton (G).

runner, Scott Sanchez who walked to start the fourth inning.

Mulvane's run came in the seventh when Tim Glaser walked to lead off. Jay Schlegel and Belden also walked and that loaded the bases. With two out, Carmichael singled in Glaser but the rally died there.

In the second game, offense wouldn't have helped much as the Lions slapped around Cat hurlers Casey Myers and Sanchez and 10 walks and three hit batsmen also hurt the cause.

Mulvane's best opportunity came in the third when Shawn Erbert and Sanchez both singled and Tom Nienke reached on an error with two outs. Schlegel's grounder chilled the rally with the final out.

"It's been tough," said Katzenmeier. "But, we've also faced some really outstanding pitching the last two-thirds of the season. I don't think I've ever seen this good of pitching throughout the league. This year, you have teams with two and sometimes three outstanding pitchers."