

Baseballers Take First Steps In Stride; Cats Start At 4-0



Don't expect MHS baseball coach Dave Katzenmeier to be doing cartwheels over a 4-0 start.

"We took four good steps," he said. "We'll relish the feeling, then move on."

With Katzenmeier's favorite combination, solid defense and pitching, the Wildcats have shot out to a perfect start.

Mulvane took out Buhler Tuesday, April 4 with that combination by scores of 4-0 and 14-2.

The first game was a pitching duel, and Mulvane had the bigger gun. Sophomore Brian Minks dominated the Crusader, allowing only one hit in six shutout innings.

"Brian's throwing really well," Katzenmeier said.

Tad Nicholson got the offense going by walking stealing a base and scoring in the first inning.

"That's what I want from my lead-off guy," Katzenmeier said. "It helps the flow if he can get going."

All the rest of the offense needed came from Casey Myers. In three at-bats, he had a walk, two doubles a run batted in and scored twice.

"If the wind is blowing the other way, one of those is a home run," Katzenmeier said.

The Cats got another good pitching performance in the second game, as Tim Glaser got his first win. The story of the contest was Mulvane's offense.

The Wildcats scored four runs in the first

inning. Scott Sanchez started things with a double and Michael Abasolo capped things with another double, knocking in two runs. Chad Nulik would knock Abasolo in to plate the fourth run.

"We played better," Katzenmeier said. "We're swinging well."

Abasolo would finish the game with two doubles and four runs batted in.

Mulvane put the game out of reach by scoring nine runs in the third. Myers and Glaser each scored twice in the inning, three times for the game.

"They kind of lost the pitching in the last game," Katzenmeier said of Buhler.

The Cats got their first two wins at Circle Friday, March 31. The games were pushed back a day by the cold weather.

It just suspended the Thunderbirds despair. The Cats jumped all over Circle and came away with 23-6 and 10-5 wins.

Mulvane shot out of the starting blocks in the first game, scoring eight runs in the first inning with aggressive base running and five walks.

They piled it on even more in a 11-run fourth inning. Junior Eric Erbert got things started with a double. Nicholson followed that by blasting a home run. Katzenmeier soon started substituting players.

Glaser filled the scorebook, getting three hits, three runs scored, two RBIs and two steals.

Minks controlled the Thunderbirds, going four innings and allowing three runs. His teammates noticed.

"He's throwing hard and pitching pretty well," outfielder Shawn Erbert said.

The 23-6 score in the first game could've swelled the players heads.

"That was the competition," Katzenmeier said. "We didn't want to take a step backwards in the second game and just enjoy the good win."

The Cats established they were there for business by scoring three runs in the first inning. Scott Sanchez, Tom Nienke and Myers all singled and scores in the opening frame. Mulvane would build a 7-0 lead.

"We played solid defense," Katzenmeier said. "They threw a pretty good kid, but we sent a message."

Glaser allowed only two hits, while striking out six in just over three innings of work.

FIRST GAME

Buhler 000 000 0-0 4
Mulvane 201 010 x-4 4
Oberle and Russell; Brian Minks and Chad Nulik.

SECOND GAME

Buhler . 011 00-2 3
Mulvane 509 0x-11 10
Medlam, Bauer 3, and Oberle; Tim Glaser and Chad Nulik.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane 802 (11)1--23 12
Circle 110 13-6 3
Brian Minks, Casey Myers 5, and Chad Nulik; Bodkin, Hall 1, Jared Swilley 4, Teck 4, Swilley 5, and Miller.

HR—Tad Nicholson (M)

SECOND GAME

Mulvane 302 030 2--10 9
Circle 000 041 0--5 6
Tim Glaser, Casey Myers, and Chad Nulik; Brack, Jason Swilley 5, and Miller

"He was throwing a lot of strikes," Katzenmeier said.

The perfect start will be tested quickly, as Mulvane moves to play Andover and Wellington this week.

"We're stepping up from (Chisholm Trail League) Division II to Division I," Katzenmeier said. "They will have a lot better pitching."

The Wildcats will host Andover today (April 6) at 4 p.m.



Sliding, pinch runner Sean Younger gets tagged out at third base