

Cat Baseballers' Bats: The Silent Treatment

Zeke Rash would give his kingdom for a hit. Right now, his "kingdom" is struggling at the plate.

Wellington ran Mulvane's losing streak to four games Monday night, April 8, at the Mulvane sports complex, holding the MHS baseball team to eight hits in two games on the way to a doubleheader sweep, 9-6 and 2-0. In the 2-0 nightcap, the Crusaders no-hit the Wildcats.

That left Mulvane at 2-6 for the year and Wellington moved back into the thick of the Chisholm Trail League race at 6-2.

"We just didn't compete at the plate very well," complained Rash, the Mulvane High baseball skipper. "We're having a hard time getting every facet of our game going at the same time. Tim Glaser pitched a tremendous ball game in the second game but we didn't give him any support at all. And in the first game, we hit the ball pretty decently (eight hits) but we made some key errors. We didn't have a lot of errors but when they came, they occurred at a key spot."

With a host of veteran players back, Rash probably never expected to get no-hit by Wellington's second-line hurler. Glaser pitched his second straight gem but the Cats couldn't punch anything across the plate. Glaser struck out three and four walks really hurt. Back-to-back walks in the second inning were followed by a double for the winning run, and a lead-off walk in the fifth also scored.

In the first game, the Wildcats' Mike Abasolo, Bryce Schumacher and Joe Flowers went 2-for-3 each. Their best rally came in a three-run fifth after Wellington had taken a 7-3 lead. Eric Erbert reached on an error, Mike Johnson singled and Glaser walked to fill the bases for Abasolo, who singled two runs to the plate. Glaser trotted home when Kasey McDowell hit a sacrifice fly to rightfield.

Valley Center showed Rash's Cats why the Hornets are perfect so far this season as VC swept past Mulvane in two games in Valley Center Thursday, April 4. The Hornets won the first game, 11-10, scoring the winning run on a bases-loaded walk in

the last inning, then huffed and puffed past Mulvane, 9-2, in the nightcap.

"We just gave them too many runs in the first game," said Rash. "I thought we were hitting the ball pretty decently but on defense, we just made too many mistakes. We're not making routine plays that we've got to make to win ball games. We should be good at it because of our experience returning, but we're not making the plays."

"I guess we did show some character by coming back in the first one. We were down by six runs and came back to tie it in the seventh inning. Still, it's difficult to win games when you don't make the routine plays."

After VC scored three runs in the fifth, the game appeared in the bag as the Hornets held onto a 10-4 lead. But Mulvane scored four times in the sixth, then added to more in the seventh to tie the game going into the bottom of the last inning. Glaser hammered a two-run single after Jake Carmichael, Erbert and Tad Nicholson had walked to start the rally. In the seventh, Travis Morgan walked with two out and so did Mike Johnson. After Erbert walked once again to fill the bases, Nicholson tapped a single through the infield to score two runs and tie the game at 10-10, but Glaser grounded out. That left the door open for VC to punch in a run in the inning to win it.

"They had two outs and first base was open," recalled Rash. "We had one of their better hitters up so we decided to put the man on base and pitch to a sophomore who hadn't seen much action. We walked him to force in the winning run. We gambled and we lost. It was pretty deflating."

Mulvane had trouble gathering itself in the first two innings of the next game and Valley went on a six-run tear in the second inning to take charge, 6-0. "After that, we played pretty solidly," noted Rash. "We made some errors again in the second inning that really hurt." All six runs in the inning were unearned against Cat hurler Joe Flowers.

Mulvane scored single runs in the fifth and sixth and that was it. Nicholson slapped a lead-off double in the fifth and scored when Glaser singled. In the sixth, Nicholson

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once again started the rally, this time by walking. After pinch hitter Noel Magee walked, Mike Abasolo singled to score Nicholson.

The Wildcats will be at home once again today (April 11). They will entertain Maize in a two-game set starting at 4 p.m.

FIRST GAME

Wellington	113 021 1—9 10
Mulvane	110 130 0—6 8

Joe Steams, Nate Comejo 5, and Greg Hinshaw; Brian Minks, Joe Flowers 7, and Chad Gerwick.
HR—Yessen (W).

SECOND GAME

Wellington	010 010 0—2 3
Mulvane	000 000 0—0 0

Nance and Greg Hinshaw; Tim Glaser and Matt Phipps.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	200 204 2—10 9
Valley Center	105 130 1—11 11

Bryce Schumacher, Pete Myers 5, James Starkweather 7, Travis Morgan 7, and Chad Gerwick; Looney, Haas 6, Lee 7, and C. Schmidt.

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	000 011 —2 5
Valley Center	061 11x—9 5

Joe Flowers, James Starkweather 2, and Mike Johnson; Houk, Reffner 6, R. Schmidt 6, and C. Schmidt.

Chisholm Trail League Baseball Standings

(Includes games thru Monday, April 8)

Team	W	L
Valley Center	8	0
Maize	4	0
Rose Hill	5	1
Wellington	6	2
Andover	5	3
Goddard	3	3
Mulvane	2	6
Augusta	1	3
Nickerson	1	3
Circle	1	7
Buhler	0	8