

Comeback Win

# MHS Trades Punches In Nickerson Series

Things are never what they seem to be. They were games an illusionist would have loved.

Mulvane pulled out one it maybe shouldn't have and let one slip away when it looked secure. It's all in a day for Mulvane High School baseball coach Zeke Rash.

"Those were two pretty good games from a spectator standpoint but they're hard on a coach," said Rash after the Wildcats split a two-game series in a trip to Nickerson Monday night, April 29. The Cats seemed to have the first game all but in the bank but lost by an 8-7 count when the Panthers punched across three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning against

Mulvane's "ace."

In the second game, Nickerson appeared to be in a glide before the Wildcats scored twice in the last inning for an 11-9 verdict.

"I felt like we showed a lot of character in that second game," said Rash. "We had just blown the first game after needing to get only three outs to win it and they bounced out to a 6-0 lead. We gathered ourselves and came back and won it, so I was pretty happy with that."

The split left Rash's Wildcats at 6-12 for the season. Nickerson stands 3-7 heading into the stretch run.

"You have to give Nickerson credit in the first game because they hit the ball," said Rash. "They pretty much earned it by hitting the ball hard. We had some plays we didn't make that kept things alive for them. I thought we were in pretty good shape. I liked our odds. We only needed to get three outs on them and we have our top pitcher on the hill but they came alive at the right time and won the ball game. We just didn't get it done."

The Wildcats started in a rush, scoring three times in the first when Tad Nicholson walked and scored on Tim Glaser's RBI double. Joe Flowers kept it alive with an RBI single and Flowers then scored when Mike Abasolo grounded out for the second out. Two more in the second inning made it 5-0. Starting pitcher Pete Myers walked and scored on an error, Mike Johnson reaching base. Johnson later scored by stealing home.

The Panthers kept pecking away until the

three-run explosion against Glaser in the seventh. Two errors helped keep the rally alive.

In the nightcap, it was Nickerson rolling out the big guns early, taking a 6-0 lead after two innings before Mulvane's first uprising, a four-run inning. Kasey McDowell, Flowers and Abasolo had RBIs in the frame.

Mulvane picked up the pace in the fifth inning by scoring two, tying the game, then took a 9-6 lead in the sixth. Glaser had a triple and scored on a sac fly by McDowell and Flowers tripled and scored on Abasolo's base knock. Abasolo then scored on Noel Magee's hit.

But Nickerson came back to tie it by scoring three times, setting the stage for a hot finish. Nicholson started the seventh by walking and Glaser followed suit with a walk. A double steal stirred the pot and led to Flowers being intentionally passed to fill the sacks. Abasolo then cracked a single for one run and Magee then doubled for another run.

With Glaser again on the mound, the Panthers tried to do some nasty things like getting two runners on base before Glaser, facing the top of the order, struck out one batter than got a pop-up on the infield.

"Nothing was safe in either one of those games," noted Rash. "It worked in the second game (bringing in his No. 1 hurler) but didn't in the first game. I felt like we could have won both of them."

But any good illusionist will tell you we could have lost both of them, too.

**MULVANE**  
**Sports**

#### FIRST GAME

Mulvane 320 101 0—7 3  
Nickerson 102 020 3—8 11  
Pete Myers, Tim Glaser 5, and Chad Gerwick; Egbert and Garcia.

#### SECOND GAME

Mulvane 004 023 2—11 14  
Nickerson 420 003 0—9 11  
Bryce Schumacher, Tim Glaser 6, and Matt Phipps; Kimminau, Walker 3, McVeigh 6, Garcia 7, and Garcia, Trower 7.