



Teammates "high-five" T.J. Lervik (31) after he scored against Rose Hill

Wellington Hex

Baseball Boys Bow In Regional Title Game

WELLINGTON—The team with the deepest pitching won. The team with the most consistent hitting won. The team with the most rest between games won.

It wasn't the Mulvane Wildcats.

Wellington High School took a step toward a possible repeat 4A state baseball championship Thursday, May 16, by battering Mulvane High School, 11-2, in the title game of the Wellington Class 4A Regional at Hibbs-Hooten Field here.

The loss ended the year for Coach Zeke Rash's Cats at 9-13 for 1996. In the first game of the afternoon, the Wildcats ripped Rose Hill in the first inning for six runs and waltzed to a 7-2 verdict over the Rockets behind a sterling pitching effort by righthander Tim Glaser, who scattered three hits.

"We just never seemed like we were in it," noted Rash about the Wellington thrashing. "Wellington played good baseball. They deserved to win it. The team with the most depth on the staff won the tournament and that team was Wellington."

The host Crusaders bopped out to a 3-0 lead after one round and after three innings, held a 6-0 lead against the Cats and Wellington was well on its way to victory No. 3 against Mulvane this season. "Offensively, we seemed to be drained for the second game because we had to put a lot into the first game," said Rash. "You could almost see it. We didn't have that same spark in the second game that we did in the opener."

The Cats' only offense came in the sixth inning after Wellington had racked up a 9-0 lead. James Starkweather led off with a walk and pinch-hitter Jake Carmichael was hit by a pitch. Tim Glaser walked to fill the bases for Kasey McDowell, who grounded out with Starkweather scoring. Carmichael later scored on a wild pitch.

Mulvane's only hit against Wellington's John Fagan came when Pete Myers lined a double, breaking up the no-hitter with two outs in the seventh inning.

"Myers (the MHS starter) wasn't real sharp," added the MHS coach. "I thought Brian (Minks) came in and gave us a few good innings with probably his best pitching effort of the year but by that time, the game wasn't looking good for us. Fagan kept us in check the whole ball game. We just never made a move against him."

It was different in the first game, a contest between two teams that battled to a tight series split during the regular season. Rash went with his top hurler, Glaser, and Rose Hill countered with Nick Krueger, who had beaten Mulvane in an earlier match-up. This time, Krueger couldn't stop the hot Cat bats in the first inning. Three mis-plays by the Rockets also helped. The RH defense

messed up pop fouls near the dugouts of each team and also had a mis-play of a towering fly ball deep in the leftfield corner that dropped for a run-scoring single by Kasey McDowell in the initial frame.

Mike Johnson started the game with a bunt single and that was all the Cats needed to ignite a short fuse.

Glaser stroked an 316-foot RBI single that dropped into the corner before Joe Flowers slapped a single scoring two runners. Mike Abasolo reached on an error with McDowell scoring. After an out, T.J. Lervik hammered a two-run double to the wall in deep left-centerfield to clear the bases. Catcher Chad Gerwick followed with a base hit which saw Lervik motor to the plate.

The Cats scored again in the fourth to take a 7-0. Myers doubled down the line and scored on Glaser's base hit.

Glaser pitched a great game. He was always ahead on the count and overpowered Rose Hill hitters. "Tim pitched an outstanding game," said Rash. "They had radar in the stands and said he was throwing at around 86-86 miles per hour on the gun and was spotting his ball pretty well. They couldn't do anything with him."

The Rockets tried to get something started in the fourth when the leadoff hitter cracked a single, the first hit off Glaser, but catcher Gerwick gunned him down rather easily trying to steal second.

The MHS righthander struck out 11 and went the distance, allowing only five hits. He walked only two batters, too.

Wellington 4A Regional Baseball Results

CHAMPIONSHIP

Wellington 312 012 2—11 13
 Mulvane 000 002 0—2 1
 John Fagan and Greg Hinshaw; Pete Myers, Brian Minks 2, James Starkweather 6, and Chad Gerwick.
 HR—Kirk Boster (W).

SEMIFINALS

Rose Hill 000 001 1—2 5
 Mulvane 600 001 x—7 9
 Nick Krueger, Kyle Holland 1, and Mike Phirney; Tim Glaser and Chad Gerwick.

Wellington 8, Augusta 1