

# Goddard Storms Past MHS

The clouds went away Monday but the storm stayed.

The Mulvane High School baseballers almost pulled off a doubleheader sweep Monday, April 14, when Goddard came to town. However, it was the Lions who rained on the Wildcat parade as they took two games, including a tough-luck 7-6 setback in the opener. Goddard also won the second game, 11-5. The losses left Mulvane at 1-3 in the league and 2-3 overall. The Cats had slipped past Circle, 6-4, in a rain-shortened single game Thursday, April 10, at the Mulvane sports complex. Bad weather washed out the nightcap.

"We were in both games and we had a chance to win both games, but we just didn't make the big plays when we needed to have them," confessed Zeke Rash, the MHS baseball coach.

The first game was especially hard to take. Goddard pushed across two runs in the fifth inning to take a 7-4 lead but the Wildcats rallied with two runs in the last

## FIRST GAME

Goddard	103	120	0	7	6
Mulvane	201	100	2	6	6

Eric Esterline, Phil Tuschat 6, and Cumbie; Brian Minks, Pete Myers 6, and Matt Phipps

## SECOND GAME

Goddard	023	102	3	11	11
Mulvane	301	010	0	5	8

Nelson, Bell 3, and Cumbie; Ryan Rogers; Pete Myers 3, Travis Morgan 5, and Matt Phipps

HR - Means (G)

## FIRST GAME

Circle	001	12	4	4
Mulvane	122	10	6	8

Bishop and Tunnel; Bryce Schumacher, Ryan Rogers 5, and Matt Phipps

## SECOND GAME

Suspended because of rain, rescheduled for 4 p.m. May 13th.

## Chisholm Trail League Boys Baseball Standings

### DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Buhler	2	0	2	2
Goddard	3	1	7	1
Maize	3	1	3	1
Andover	2	2	4	2
Wellington	2	2	2	6
Mulvane	1	3	2	3
Valley Center	1	3	2	4
Augusta	0	2	1	3

### DIVISION II

Rose Hill	2	0	3	3
Circle	2	0	2	3
Douglass	0	0	2	0
Medicine Lodge	0	0	0	0
Bluestem	0	0	0	0
Belle Plaine	0	2	0	2
Clearwater	0	2	0	4

inning and had runners at second and third with only one out. Anything would have won the game. Nothing happened.

"We put ourselves in bad position because we had too many walks coupled with some hits," said Rash. "That led to some big innings. We also fell down defensively. When you combine those three things, you're asking for some big innings and they got them. I was disappointed that we didn't execute defensively like we're going to have to if we intend to be a good ball club. It all starts with the pitcher throwing strikes, and when that happens, the defense usually responds. It kind of goes hand-in-hand."

The host Cats took a 2-1 lead after one inning. Mike Johnson singled. He stole second and scored when Chad Gerwick reached on an error. After another out, Pete Myers rapped a base hit to score Gerwick. That lead didn't last long as the Lions bunched two hits, two hit batsmen and a walk together for three runs in the third and put some distance between them and the Cats with two more runs in the 5th with the help of two errors.

Mulvane battled back, though, in the

bottom of the seventh trailing 7-4. Todd Fagan started the rally with a single and scored when Johnson drilled a triple. Darrin Erbert walked. After the first out, Bryce Schumacher's single delivered Johnson to the plate. Erbert ended at third and Schumacher at second. But that's where they stayed as the Lions closed the door.

"We had a couple guys take strike three in that inning," said Rash. "The pitches could have been balls, but when it's that close that late in the game, you have to be aggressive and swinging. And we had a blooper over the second baseman that could have fallen in. Instead, an outfielder caught it to end the game."

Wildcat starter, righthander Brian Minks, a senior, struggled with his control, walking five and hitting two batters. Pete Myers did a nice job in relief to keep the Wildcats in the game in the last two innings.

"I know Brian can pitch much better and our defense can play better," said Rash. "The week when we didn't get outside much didn't help. Brian hasn't gotten enough work and our defense didn't get enough time either. It makes it tough."



Mulvane catcher Matt Phipps tags out Goddard runner at plate

The Lions, raising their record to 3-1 in the CTL, put the game away in the top of the seventh on a three-run homer. Until that point in time, the Cats still had a shot although they trailed, 8-5.

The Wildcats blasted off early against Goddard, scoring three times in the opening frame. Johnson walked to start the game, Erbert slapped a single and Gerwick tapped another single, scoring Johnson. After Erbert had scored on an error, Pete Myers singled for another RBI but he got caught between second and third and was tagged out, the second of the inning.

"We were in the second game until they got hot with the bat in the sixth inning," said Rash. "We just seemed to be out of sync both games. Even when we had a 3-0 lead, I didn't feel comfortable. Ryan started and didn't have his best stuff. They hit him pretty hard so we brought Pete in and he did a nice job until he ran out of gas. Again, we had too many walks, too many errors on routine plays and that's something I didn't expect."

The Wildcats banged out eight hits in five innings against Circle Thursday before the rains became too much and the game was stopped. The second game will be played as a single game May 15th at the complex.

Schumacher started the game and scattered seven hits to pick up the victory. Rogers put down a Thunderbird rally in the fifth inning with two runs in and no outs and got out of the jam.

Myers' RBI grounder in the first and RBI base knocks by Phipps and Morgan made it a 3-0 game after two innings, and the Cats chalked up two more in the third to take a 5-0 lead. Gerwick singled to ignite the third inning rally and he scored when Schumacher's grounder scored Gerwick and Schumacher scored after a Minks single and a walk to Todd Fagan.

The two teams traded runs in the fourth as the rain continued to fall. Mulvane's score came when Johnson singled, stole two bases and was plated on Gerwick's ground out.

The Wildcats will have a week off to think things through and get ready for their next contests, a doubleheader Monday, April 21, at home against Douglass. The first game will start at 4 p.m. at the Mulvane sports complex.