

Mulvane Knocks Douglass Off Pedestal; Pitching Shines In Sweep

Six wins in a row can make for a lot of momentum and confidence. Douglass had that.

The key word: "had." Mulvane knocked the wind out of Douglass' sails Monday evening, April 21, with a doubleheader sweep over the Bulldogs, handing the visiting Douglass baseball team its first two losses of the season.

The Wildcats meanwhile improved their record to 4-3 overall.

"We're happy to get two wins no matter what," said Zeke Rash, the Wildcat baseball coach. "They came in 6-0 and were confident, so it was a good sweep for us. We went with our fresh arms (Bryce Schumacher in the opener and lefty Ryan

Rogers in the nightcap). Bryce didn't have his best stuff but Pete (Myers) came in and held them scoreless after coming in in the 4th inning and did a good job closing."

The Wildcats stumped the Bulldogs, 4-3, in the first game, then hammered the visitors, 12-2, in the nightcap.

"The first game is was a very good defensive ball game both ways," added Rash. "We made some plays and played an error-less game. Matt Phipps (catcher) played a tremendous game. He's been looking good back there. And Mike Johnson had a very good game in the outfield."

The key, though, was Myers' pitching. He entered in the fourth inning the two on

and two out and got the save. Myers faced only 11 batters the rest of the way to protect a 4-3 Cat lead.

"Pete came in and threw strikes," said Rash. "Once he took charge in that inning, we felt a lot more comfortable. We tried to get a couple more runs in the next two innings but couldn't."

The game opened for Mulvane on a strange note. After Douglass scored twice in the opening inning, Mulvane responded with some thunder of their own. Johnson ignited the rally when he pounded a long ball to leftfield. The leftfielder fell backward and laid on the ground with or without the ball—depending on who you talk to. The umpires called it no catch and Johnson ended up at second base. He later scored when Chad Gerwick slapped a single. Gerwick came around on Travis Morgan's base hit and scored on an error by the first sacker, tying the game.

The Wildcats won it in the second

inning. Phipps doubled but was thrown out at third when Brian Minks tried to bunt him over. Minks then scored on a towering, two-out home run by Johnson. That made it 4-2 and Mulvane's pitching did the rest.

"The key hit was the homer, an inside-the-park job," said Rash. "Their outfielder dove for the ball and it got past him. He had to chase it a long way, and Mike's going to tour the bases pretty easily when that happens."

Game 2 provided more pitching heroics for the Wildcat staff. Lefty Ryan Rogers was too tough. "He pitched a great ball game," said the MHS coach. "He threw a lot of strikes and kept it down. He had command. I think he walked only two or three and kept the ball down in the strike zone. Ryan doesn't strike out many but he does allow us to play defense and we did. We really are a pretty good defensive ball club."

The Wildcats took charge in the nightcap by sending the Bulldog starter to the showers in an eight-run third inning. Darrin Erbert started things by reaching on an error and Gerwick walked. Morgan followed with an RBI single and so did Myers right before Schumacher knocked in a pair of runs with a base hit. Phipps had an RBI single and Minks walked. After Johnson singled and Erbert singled in another run, Gerwick greeted a fresh pitcher with an RBI single to rightfield.

"We finally had a big inning," said Rash. "Anytime you can have a big inning, you usually are going to win the ball game. Our bats came alive in that inning and helped us out. Hopefully, that will carry over until Thursday."

That's when the Wildcats will be playing again. They travel to Buhler today (April 24) for a Chisholm Trail League doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m.

In the nightcap, Johnson went 2-for-3 with one run scored, Erbert went 1-for-2 with three runs scored and Phipps went 2-for-4 with one run scored.

FIRST GAME

Douglass 200 100 0-3 4
 Mulvane 220 000 x-4 7
 Ketterman and Banister; Bryce Schumacher, Pete Myers 4, and Matt Phipps.
 HR--Mike Johnson (M)

SECOND GAME

Douglass 000 020 0-2 3
 Mulvane 118 002 x-12 10
 Sanderson, Cockrell 3, and Banister, Ryan Rogers and Matt Phipps, Jeremiah Webb 5, Phipps 6

Chisholm Trail League Boys Baseball Standings

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Goddard	3	1	5	1
Maize	3	1	5	1
Andover	2	2	6	2
Augusta	2	2	4	4
Buhler	2	2	2	4
Wellington	2	2	4	6
Mulvane	1	3	4	3
Valley Center	1	3	4	4

DIVISION II

Rose Hill	4	0	5	5
Circle	2	0	3	4
Douglass	0	0	6	2
Medicine Lodge	0	0	0	0
Belle Plaine	0	2	0	2
Bluestem	0	2	0	4
Clearwater	0	2	0	8

Mulvane
Sports