

Boys Rebound Against ML

Just when things were looking good, the rainmaker struck Monday night, April 6, keeping the Mulvane High School baseball team from sweeping Medicine Lodge in a non-league doubleheader.

The Wildcats had their wrecking crew going, leading by a 13-3 count in the bottom of the fourth when game No. 2 was suspended by poor weather. In the opener against the Indians, Coach Zeke Rash's crew edged Medicine Lodge, 10-9.

The results leave Mulvane at 2-1 for the season. "I thought we could have played a lot better baseball than we played," said Rash. "The offense is something I've been pretty happy with. Our pitching is something I've been pretty happy with. But we have had a few problems with ball fours and on defense, we haven't made the plays I thought we should be making."

With a veteran squad behind him, Rash feels the defense should be more solid than shown in the first four games.

"Garret Hennes struggled a little on the mound in that first game," said Rash. "He had five walks in two innings. Actually, eight of their nine runs scored in that first game got on by walks. When you give people walks, you're just asking for trouble. You can't let people do that. You have to make them earn their way on base."

Medicine Lodge put together back-to-back four-run innings in the second and third to take an 8-5 lead but the Cats quickly got back on top for good by rolling up three runs in the sixth inning. Chad Gerwick started the winning rally with a single and Justin Horton kept it going with a single. Bryce Schumacher singled in two runs, then scored on an error.

The Cats got off to a quick start, scoring four times in the first. With one out, Jeramie Boor ripped a double to center and scored when Gerwick doubled. Horton followed with a homer over the centerfield fence. Schumacher doubled and scored the last run when Brian Dinkel slapped a single.

"We're hitting the ball, we're just making mistakes that we shouldn't be making," emphasized Rash. "We had some base running errors, too, and that wasn't smart baseball."

The Cat baseballers kicked off the campaign Thursday, April 2, by splitting a tight doubleheader with Valley Center at the Mulvane sports complex. Mulvane won the opener, 4-2, then lost in extra innings in the nightcap by a 7-4 count.

FIRST GAME

Medicine Lodge 044 100 0—9 7
Mulvane 410203 x—10 14
Meador, L. Jacobs 6, and Strong; Garrett Hennes, Nathan Gunter 3, Brian Dinkel 5, Ryan Rogers 7, and Jerimiah Webb.
HR—Chad Gerwick, Justin Horton (M).

SECOND GAME

Suspended in the bottom of the fourth with Mulvane leading, 13-3

FIRST GAME

Valley Center 100 000 1—2 3
Mulvane 000 004 x—4 4
George and Boone; Ryan Rogers, Keene Hargrove 6, Chad Gerwick 7, and Jerimiah Webb.

SECOND GAME

Valley Center 002 010 13—7 7
Mulvane 000 010 30—4 7
Banick, Gregory 6, Ivy 7, and Wilson; Chad Gerwick, Bryce Schumacher 5, and Jerimiah Webb.
HR—George (VC); Chad Gerwick (M).

Mulvane made the most out of five hits in the VC opener, but it was plenty with standout hurler Ryan Rogers on the hill. Rogers dominated the game, mowing down 13 batters in a row in the middle of the game. He only struck out two, but he didn't walk a batter.

"Ryan had his average game," said Rash. "He wasn't nearly as sharp as he can be, but giving up only one hit over five innings is pretty good. We trailed by a 1-0 count but we finally got to their pitcher in the sixth for four runs and that was it."

The Cats scored to break away when Darrin Erbert reached on an error and scored on Chad Gerwick's double. Another double by Horton made it 2-1 and Horton scored when Schumacher doubled. Hennes singled in Schumacher with the final run.

Keene Hargrove and Gerwick did the rest in relief of Rogers in the 6th and 7th, shutting VC down to only a single run in the seventh inning.

In the nightcap, Valley rolled out to a 3-0 lead in the first five innings before Mulvane started finding the range. An RBI single by Erbert scored Lucas Powell with Mulvane's first run in the bottom of the fifth.

After a bases-loaded rally in the 5th fizzled, the Wildcats rallied to tie it with three runs in the seventh. Chad Gerwick's solo homer and Boor's double were the big hits but Valley also committed two errors that helped, too.

In the first extra inning, a three-run homer by the Hornets' clean-up hitter cleaned things up and gave the visitors the decision when Mulvane failed to answer in the eighth.



MHS senior Bryce Schumacher (37) grabs an infield dribbler and throws to first for the out against the Hornets in season opener