

Mulvane Boys Work Split; Make It Close For Scouts

A loss served as a pick-me-up Monday, April 13, when the Mulvane High School baseballers went to Wellington for a Chisholm Trail League doubleheader.

Coach Zeke Rash's Cats were coming off two losses Thursday, April 9, at Goddard and had to face a future major league draft choice, Wellington's Nate Cornejo. When Nate's pitching, you don't want your radar detector on because it will be sounding off the whole game.

With 30 major league scouts all recording Cornejo's fastball speed, a few might have noticed a great game thrown by Mulvane's Garrett Hennes. A couple fielding miscues, including one by himself, did Hennes in and gave Wellington a 4-2 verdict. The Cats rebounded in the nightcap, though, burying the Crusaders by a 17-3 score.

"I felt like we competed real good against him," said Rash. "We hit the ball hard four or five times and made it close. It should have been a 2-2 game going into the seventh. We made a couple errors that hurt. To beat him (Cornejo), you can't leave runners on base and you can't make errors. You have to play flawless ball. We didn't and we lost. He's probably the best pitcher in the state."

Maybe, but Hennes, a junior righthander, was terrific as he scattered seven hits. "Garrett pitched our best game of the season," confessed Rash. "That was the best effort by any pitcher, so we're really happy to see that. The error he made on the over-throw at first on the bunt (in the two-run third inning) really hurt. We were up, 2-1 at the time and that put them ahead. The effort

was there, though. We played good baseball. It was night-and-day compared to the way we played at Goddard."

The Cats scored twice in the second to answer a one-run first by Wellington. Justin Horton started the fireworks when a huge triple to deep centerfield against Cornejo and scored when Hennes reached on an error. Lucas Powell reached on a fielder's choice and scored when Ryan Tatum drilled a single to right, giving the Cats a 2-1 lead. But that turned out to be the offense, and it wasn't enough.

In the second game, Mulvane blasted out seven hits and scored nine times in the first inning to make things easy for righthander Chad Gerwick. The Cats finished with 16 hits, including three by Gerwick and two apiece by Darrin Erbert, Horton, Hennes, Brian Dinkel and Powell.

Key hits in that first-inning stretch came from Horton and Gerwick with doubles and singles by Jeramie Boor, Tatum, Dinkel, Powell and Erbert.

Things didn't go well for the Cat baseballers in their first road trip Thursday as Goddard posted an 8-1 decision over MHS ace Ryan Rogers, then battered three pitchers to smother Mulvane, 12-3, in the second game.

The Wildcat offense went dormant, registering only seven hits in the twinbill. "Goddard has a good club but we didn't play well at all," said Rash. "We played

opposite of what they played, sloppy baseball. We didn't hit the ball at all and we had way too many people strike out. To compete, we just have to play a lot better."

Rogers was slapped around for six hits and walked four before Dinkel relieved him after five innings.

Mulvane's lone run came in the third when Jerimiah Webb poked a single to left. Pinch-runner Randy Johnson scored after a passed ball on a base knock by Boor.

It didn't get much better in game No. 2 with the Lions putting the game away with six runs in the 3rd inning.

Mulvane scored three times in the 4th when Dinkel and Johnson walked and Webb loaded the sacks when he reached on a fielder's choice. Erbert's fly to left delivered one run and Boor followed with a two-run single.

"Wins and losses will take care of themselves," said Rash afterward, "but playing good baseball doesn't happen by itself. We didn't play good baseball and the kids knew it, too. We didn't take care of things defensively. Our communication in the outfield cost us three runs. That's just one example, and there were many.

"And when your defense is messing up, it carries over into your pitching. It was just one of those doubleheaders you want to forget about and move on."

The Wildcats get a chance to "move on" today (April 16) when they entertain Rose

Hill. The doubleheader starts at 4 p.m. Mulvane will then travel to Nickerson Monday, April 20, for two games.

Chisholm Trail League Baseball Standings

DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

Rose Hill	4	0	4	2
Douglass	2	0	4	2
Circle	0	0	1	3
Belle Plaine	0	0	0	0
Medicine Lodge	0	0	0	1
Bluestem	0	2	0	4
Clearwater	0	4	0	6

Standings include only games reported.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	020 000 0—2	4
Wellington	102 100 x—4	7
Garrett Hennes and Jerimiah Webb; Nate Cornejo and Ybarra.		

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	931 13—17	16
Wellington	021 00—3	6
Chad Gerwick and Jerimiah Webb; Metzzen and Nance.		

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	001 000 0—1	4
Goddard	003 122 x—8	11
Ryan Rogers, Brian Dinkel 6, and Jerimiah Webb, Touchett, Limebaugh 7, and Blas.		

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	000 300 0—3	3
Goddard	106 032 x—12	11
Bryce Schumacher, Keene Hargrove 3, Garrett Hennes 6, and Jerimiah Webb; Skinner, Howard 4, and Herrington.		

