



Mulvane runner Randy Johnson (27) gets forced at third in the second game against Rose Hill

Errors Keep Cats From Sweeping Nickerson

Nickerson could have been just what the doctor ordered for the Mulvane High School baseball squad. Instead, it was just another shot in the foot.

The Wildcats botched the first game Monday night, April 20, at Nickerson by making three consecutive errors in the bottom of the last inning as the Panthers rallied with three runs for a 5-4 triumph over MHS. The Cats came back to win the second game, 7-6.

The Cats had things on cruise control in the opener, scoring one in the first on a Darrin Erbert double and a Justin Horton RBI hit, and adding another one in the third when Erbert walked, stole second and scored when Chad Gerwick lined a single to center. Brian Dinkel scored on an RBI single by Lucas Powell in the 4th to make it 3-2 and Dinkel scored again in the 6th on another Powell base hit.

Meanwhile, Gerwick was in the groove, retiring 16 batters in a row after the Panthers' two-run first, but the roof caved in behind a one-out walk and three consecutive errors that gave Nickerson the game-winning run.

In the second game, Mulvane worked its way out to a 7-2 lead only to see the Panthers rally again. Stopper Ryan Rogers

Mulvane Sports

came in in the final inning to shut the door. Powell finished with three hits and both Erbert and Randy Johnson had two hits each to pace the Cat offense.

The Cats let another one escape Thursday, April 16, in a home series against Rose Hill. The two teams split but Rash feels Mulvane should have been able to put the icing on the cake in the nightcap instead of letting the Rockets slip out of the second game with a 7-5 victory. The Cats blasted RH in the first game, 8-0, behind a strong game by Ryan Rogers.

"We thought we should have won both of those games," noted Rash. "In game one, we played real well. Ryan did a great job pitching and the defense played a real solid game behind him. If you score eight runs, you should win most high school baseball games."

Rogers had perhaps his best outing of 1998 as only two RH Rockets reached second base and none of them advanced farther. Rogers finished with a four-hit shutout and

as is his norm, didn't walk many—only two.

"Ryan finally pitched as solidly as we think he can and it was nice to see," said Rash. "He threw a lot of strikes and was throwing harder, I believe, than he has all year. He was a little sore earlier but I think he's better now. He threw it and let the defense work for him. We didn't make an error. The kids in the outfield (Jeramie Boor, Ryan Tatum and Bryce Schumacher) especially made some nice catches for him."

The Cat offense pecked away in the first two innings to take a 5-0 lead that was never threatened. Lucas Powell started the game with a single and Darrin Erbert lashed a base hit, setting the table for a one-out single by Justin Horton that delivered two runs.

Three more came in in the second when Boor doubled and Powell singled. Erbert grounded out with Boor scoring from third. After Chad Gerwick singled, Schumacher lined a double to right-centerfield scoring two more runners. Gerwick later had an RBI triple and scored on another run-producing single by Horton in the sixth to put the game.

In game No. 2, the solid pitching of game one became a thing of the past. Six of Rose Hill's seven runs scored by players who had walked to reach base. "We went with Brian Dinkel in the second game to get three or four good innings but he lost it in the second inning," said Rash. "I don't know what happened. He sailed through the first inning. He just couldn't throw strikes and our inability the whole game to throw strikes caught up with us."

Rose Hill came from a 3-2 deficit with five runs in the fourth inning and that proved to be too big of a mountain for the host MHS Cats to climb, although they left runners stranded in every inning.

"It wasn't lack of effort, just some strange breaks here and there that hurt us," observed Rash. "In the last inning, Darrin hit one that should have gone for a triple but their centerfielder makes one of the greatest high school catches I've ever seen. That kind of deflated us because it would have scored one and put the tying run at third with one out."

Gerwick had one hit and one RBI and so did Schumacher. Horton was the only Mulvane hitter with two hits.

The Wildcat jayvee team won a pair of squeakers at Rose Hill. It was 11-6 in the opener and 9-8 in the second game. Mulvane put the first game away with four runs in the fifth with Derek Boyer, Ryan McKnight, Derek Nordquist and Luke Scott scoring runs. Brian Love scored a run in the top of the 5th that was the winner in the second game.

At home against Wellington earlier in the week, Mulvane's JV baseballers split. Wellington took the opener, 6-5, and Mulvane overcame a six-run first inning by the Crusaders to claim a 12-9 triumph. It took a wild four-run 4th to do it as Brian McColpin, Jonathan Reed, McKnight and Love came across to score.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane 101 101 0-4 6
Nickerson 200 000 3-5 2
Chad Gerwick and Jerimiah Webb; Krol and Buddy.

SECOND GAME

Mulvane 210 130 0-7 11
Nickerson 200 013 0-6 5
Garrett Hennes, Bryce Schumacher 6, Ryan Rogers 7, and Jerimiah Webb; Misenas and Buddy.

FIRST GAME

Rose Hill 000 000 0-0 4
Mulvane 230 002 x-8 11
Jeff Nickel, Brad Bradford 4, and Bradford, Ryan Tarbox 4; Ryan Rogers and Jerimiah Webb.

SECOND GAME

Rose Hill 020 500 0-7 5
Mulvane 102 101 0-5 7
Jeff Kennitz, Ricke 3, Kennitz 5, Jeff Nickel 7, and Brad Bradford; Brian Dinkel, Keene Hargrove 4, Bryce Schumacher 6, and Jerimiah Webb.

Junior Varsity Baseball

Mulvane 11, Rose Hill 6
Mulvane 9, Rose Hill 8
Wellington 6, Mulvane 5
Mulvane 12, Wellington 9