

Wildcat Boys On Roller Coaster

To execute means to win. The Mulvane High School baseballers did in one game Monday night, May 11, when Andover came to the Mulvane sports complex. They won.

In the second game, the Wildcats didn't execute in two big innings. They lost.

The Cats were all over the Trojans in the opener Monday, sacking the visitors, 11-3, with one of their best games of the season. But in the second game, the Cats slipped into the pattern that has dogged this team all season. The Wildcats missed opportunities nearly every inning, then after Andover had scored two in the top of the seventh to tie it, Mulvane lost it in the 12th inning with the help of a mis-play as Andover won by a 10-7 count.

The split left Coach Zeke Rash's club at 8-11 overall and 6-10 in the Chisholm Trail League for the year as the team heads into the Mulvane Class 4A Sub-State set to open at 2 p.m. Monday, May 18. Mulvane will be seeded No. 5 and will play at 2 p.m. Monday against the No. 4 seed. The official seeding won't take place until Saturday, May 16.

The Wildcats took charge quickly in the first game. It turned into the "Justin Horton Show." The senior first baseman smashed a run-scoring double in the first inning as the Cats broke to the lead with three runs. He rapped a two-run homer in the third, highlighting a four-run inning, then hit another two run homer in the 4th, another four-run inning.

That was more than enough for senior Cat hurler Ryan Rogers, who pitched a five-hitter. "Ryan pitched his best game of the season," noted Rash. "I know he shut out Rose Hill earlier, but I think Andover is a better hitting team. He was just solid. He needed that kind of a game. Hopefully, it will carry over to the next game."

Lucas Powell started things with a lead-off single and Darrin Erbert followed with a base hit. After Chad Gerwick walked to fill the bases, one run scored on an passed ball, Bryce Schumacher beat out an infield hit and another run scored before Horton busted one to left.

Mulvane made it a runaway in the 3rd

when Schumacher singled and scored in front of Horton's first homer. Eric Tatum walked and designated hitter Brian Dinkel singled and later, an error enabled Tatum to score as the Cats took a 7-2 lead.

"Justin Horton had a tremendous game," said Rash. "He broke it open for us with his two run homers. All of our guys had a pretty decent hitting game and when that happens with Ryan on the mound and our defense playing smart, we're going to win."

The second game was disappointing because the Wildcats squandered opportunity after opportunity through the first five innings while Andover built up a 4-2 lead. Mulvane took advantage of two bases-filled walks and an RBI ground out by Horton and an RBI single by Tatum to charge to a 6-4 lead going into the top of the seventh.

Andover scored twice to tie it. Finally, in the 12th inning, the Trojans punched in three runs to win it.

The Wildcats had more troubles Thursday, May 7, in a pair of games at Augusta. The host Orioles thumped the Cats in two games, 12-4 and 5-1. The only other doubleheader sweep against Mulvane this year came against Goddard.

"Augusta played real good baseball," said Rash. "It wasn't that we played real bad, but they just beat us in every phase. They out-pitched us. They out-hit us. They played better defense."

Mulvane threatened in six of the seven innings. Horton started the scoring after singling in the 2nd inning. A single by Eric Tatum sent Horton to third and he scored when designated hitter Garrett Hennes grounded out for an RBI. Two more came in in the 3rd when Powell singled and Erbert walked. Both advanced on a ground out. Powell scored on a fly by Horton and Erbert came in on a passed ball. Mulvane's only other run came in the 5th when Schumacher slapped a triple and scored when Tatum singled to right.

The second game at Augusta was an offensive disaster for the Wildcats. They managed only four hits. It was only the second time this year that the team didn't score more than one run, although they had

baserunners on in six of the seven innings.

Powell had two hits and scored the only run in the first inning when Schumacher drilled a two-out single to score Powell from 3rd base. Mulvane's only other hit was a single by Horton in the 4th and a leadoff single by Powell in the 6th.

The offensive short-circuit spoiled a fair job of pitching by Keene Hargrove.

The losses dropped the Wildcats to 7-10 and 5-9 in the league and pretty much solidified the No. 5 seed for the Cats in the Mulvane Class 4A Regional which begins Monday, May 18. Although the official seedings won't be set until after games played Friday, May 15, it appears that the Wildcats will square off against the No. 4 seeded team in the opening game of the tournament at 2 p.m. Monday, May 18, at the Mulvane sports complex.

Andover wasn't a kind place for the Mulvane JV baseballers Monday night, May 11. The host Trojans took two from the Cats, winning by a 2-0 count in game No. 1 and taking a 9-6 verdict in the second game. Mulvane's only hits were singles by Derek Nordquist, Brian McColpin and Jonathan Reed in the opener, spoiling a fine job by Reed on the hill. In the second game, Luke Scott had two home runs and scored three times to spark the Cat offense. McColpin also had two hits and scored once.

The MHS junior varsity baseballers swept the two game at home Thursday against Augusta. They won game No. 1, 8-0, as Luke Gunter had a great outing, striking out eight and limiting the Orioles to only two hits. In the nightcap, the Cats won, 7-3.

In the first game, Kyle McGuire had two hits and scored twice, Brian McColpin had two hits and two RBIs and Jonathan Reed and Derek Nordquist had RBI base hits. In the second game, McColpin's inside-the-park homer highlighted a four-run 4th that snapped a 3-3 tie and pitcher Derek Boyer shut the door with three scoreless innings.

FIRST GAME

Andover	101 010 0	3	6
Mulvane	304 400 x	11	13
S. Gonzalez, Marlen 5, and Goodman, Ryan Rogers and Jeremiah Webb			
HR	Justin Horton, 2 (M)		

SECOND GAME

Andover	400 000 200 013	10	14
Mulvane	200 004 000 010	7	10
Marlen, Righy 3, Bland 6, and Goodman, Bryce Schumacher, Garrett Hennes 2, Chad Gerwick 9, and Jeremiah Webb			
HR	Carnier (A)		

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	012 010 0	4	4
Augusta	123 006 x	12	9
Chad Gerwick and Jeremiah Webb, Stephenson, Altenhofen 7, Flores			

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	100 000 0	1	3
Augusta	310 100 x	5	7
Keene Hargrove, Garrett Hennes 5, and Jeremiah Webb, Nachbor and Flores			

Junior Varsity Baseball

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	000 00	0	3
Andover	200 0x	2	4
Mulvane battery Jonathan Reed and Cale Carson			

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	102 12	6	9
Andover	224 1x	9	8
Mulvane battery Brian Love, Nathan Gunter 4, and Gary Trone			

FIRST GAME

Augusta JV	000 00	0	2
Mulvane JV	312 2x	8	8
Mulvane battery Nathan Gunter and Cale Carson			

SECOND GAME

Augusta JV	120 00	3	3
Mulvane JV	030 4x	7	3
Mulvane battery Luke Scott, Derek Boyer 4, and Gary Trone			
HR	Brian McColpin (M)		

Mulvane 4A Regional Baseball Pairings

MONDAY, MAY 18

Game 1 — No. 4 Wellington (10-8) vs. No. 5 Mulvane (8-11), 2 p.m.
 Game 2 — No. 3 Haven (12-8) vs. No. 6 Clearwater (5-13), 4
 Game 3 — No. 1 Pratt (11-5) vs. winner of game 1, 6
 Game 4 — No. 2 Nickerson (11-7) vs. winner of game 2, 8

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

Game 5 (Championship) — winners of games 3 and 4, 6 p.m.



Third sacker Lucas Powell waits for the throw as Andover runner dives to a slide