

Mulvane Eliminated

Crusaders Rain On Mulvane's Parade

A season of promise crumbled into a afternoon of despair Monday, May 18, in the opening round of Mulvane Class 4A Regional Baseball Tournament held at the Mulvane sports complex.

Instead of packing for Manhattan and a shot at the 4A state championship next weekend, the Wildcats are packing it away for another season following an 8-2 thrashing by Wellington in the first game of the Regional.

Playing at home and with a host of veterans returning, Coach Zeke Rash had hoped for more—much more. "Defensively, we had some missed plays and a couple of errors on the mound," said Rash. "It probably should have been a 2-0 or 3-0 game going into the 5th but it wasn't. It was real disappointing that we didn't play better defense. It was one

of those things, kind of like our season. Sometimes they step up and sometimes they level off. I don't think our seniors stepped up like we expected them to."

In the other first round game, Haven racked up Clearwater, 12-7. In the semifinals, No. 1 seeded Pratt clipped Wellington, 7-5, and No. 2 seeded Nickerson won a donnybrook, 14-13, over Haven, setting up a battle between the top two regional seeds at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, for a State tournament berth.

The Wildcats didn't make much of a dent in the reputation of Wellington's ace pitcher Nate Comejo, who has had dozens of major league scouts looking him over. He put the Cats down without a baserunner in the first three innings, and the only baserunners in his five innings were when Chad Gerwick walked with one out in the fourth

and Ryan Tatum singled to left. He was doubled up on the next batter.

"He threw about as good as a high school pitcher could throw," said Rash. "Comejo just dominated us for five innings. He looked a lot sharper than he did the first time we met them. I thought the kids got in there and battled him. We swung the bats. It's just real hard to hit outstanding pitching, and outstanding pitching is going to beat outstanding hitting any time."

Mulvane's offense came in the 6th after Comejo had departed with the Crusaders up by an 8-0 count. Troy Johnson doubled and scored when Lucas Powell doubled. A single by Gerwick plated Powell but that was the extent of the MHS offense.

Meanwhile, the Crusaders were rough on Mulvane starter-loser Ryan Rogers, who was stroked for a solo homer in the 4th and

a three-run homer in the 5th.

The loss ended the year for the Wildcats at 8-12. In the Chisholm Trail League Division I, Mulvane finished 6-10.

Mulvane 4A Regional Baseball Tournament CHAMPIONSHIP

Pratt (12-5) and Nickerson (12-7) were to have played at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, with the winner advancing to the opening round of the Class 4A State Baseball Championship in Manhattan Friday, May 29.

SEMIFINALS

Pratt 7, Wellington 5
Nickerson 14, Haven 13

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane	000 002 0—2 4
Wellington	012 140 x—8 8
Ryan Rogers, Garrett Hennes 5, Keene Hargrove 5, Chad Gerwick 6, and Jeremiah Webb; Nate Comejo, Ybarra 6, and Nance.	
HR—Ybarra and Motzen (W).	

Haven 12, Clearwater 7