

# Wildcat Baseballers Come Up Short, Then Get Bats Booming For Split

Give one, take one. It was give and take time for the Mulvane High School baseball boys Monday, April 19, at the Mulvane sports complex.

Nickerson was in town for two Chisholm Trail League games but nothing was decided as the two teams split the two games. Nickerson rallied with two runs in the 6th inning and blanked Mulvane in the last two innings for a 6-5 victory. The sweetness was short-lived, though, as the Wildcats bombed away for nine runs in the first inning of the second game on the way to a 13-7 verdict in the nightcap.

"I felt like we may have let that first one get away," said Zeke Rash, the Wildcat baseball coach. "We had some chances to win it in the seventh inning and didn't do it. We also had the lead and let them score twice in the sixth. In the seventh inning, we had three seniors strike out and that was the top of our batting order. You expect those guys to be aggressive and put the ball in play, so that was a little disappointing. We got a runner to second base but couldn't come up with the hit to tie it. They had a pretty good pitcher in there at that time, too. He's probably the best we've faced this year and you have to factor that into it."

The split left the Wildcats at 3-5 in the league and 5-5 overall.

"Defensively, we did a pretty good job,"

**FIRST GAME**  
 Nickerson 301 002 0- 6 8  
 Mulvane 001 130 0- 5 7  
 Barkley and D. Rush, Nathan Gunter, Luke Scott 6, and Jeremiah Webb  
 HR: D. Rush (N)

**SECOND GAME**  
 Nickerson 200 131 0- 7 4  
 Mulvane 911 020 x- 13 12  
 Allen, J. Rick, L. F. Rush 3, Misunas 5, and Barkley.  
 Derek Boyer, Luke Scott and Jeremiah Webb  
 HR: Barkley (N)

said Rash. "There's always a play or two that you feel you should have made but it was pretty good overall. And our pitchers did a nice job. They threw strikes. That's all we're asking them to do. I think Nathan Gunter had one walk and Luke Scott had none in two stints of relieving. Derek Boyer had five walks. He was a little erratic, but he's pretty crafty. When people are on base, he seems to be able to work around that."

Senior Randy Johnson went 2-for-4 and had two RBIs and Eric Tatum went 2-for-3 with two RBIs in the first game. He also had three stolen bases as the Cats kept the pressure on once they got on base with eight stolen bases.

Mulvane threatened in both the 6th and 7th innings but couldn't score. In the finale, both Johnson and Brian Dinkel fanned in front of a single by Scott. But he was stranded at second when the game ended.

In the second game, Mulvane ripped 12 hits, six of them coming in the wild first

inning. "It was a great first inning," noted Rash. "I think that was our biggest inning of the season. It was good to see the kids bounce back after a disappointing loss. We got some hits and when we put people on base, we can pressure them pretty easily because of our speed. That's what we have to do to be competitive."

"Everybody contributed to the inning. Eight of our nine starters scored runs. In fact, Powell scored twice in the inning. That gave Boyer plenty of cushion. He knows how to get things done. He didn't have his best stuff but he has a lot of heart and he has a real good curve ball that he was throwing for a strike. Then, Luke (Scott) came in in the last two innings and mopped up for us."

In that zany first, Powell singled to start the game and Johnson walked. After Dinkel walked, the hot-hitting Scott looped a two-run single. Garrett Hennes walked and so did Tatum, setting the stage for Boyer's two-run single. Josh Sears delivered two more runs with a single before the Panthers got their first out. Powell kept things going with a double and that scored a run. Powell scored moments later when Dinkel tripled.

Dinkel had a super game, going 3-for-3 and scoring three times. Scott and Powell had two hits each and Tatum scored two runs.

"We played much better in the second

game than we did in the first game," added Rash. "Mentally, we seemed a lot sharper. We eliminated the mental mistakes we had made in the opener, and the kids hit the ball pretty decently. We had a lot of hits."

The Cats put the game away with two runs in the 5th after the Panthers had closed the gap to 11-6. Johnson reached on an error and Dinkel singled. With two out, Hennes singled scoring both baserunners.

The Wildcats' doubleheader Thursday, April 15, at Rose Hill was postponed because of cold weather and a wet field. The two rivals will make up the series Saturday, May 1, at Rose Hill. Game time is 10 a.m. The next contest for Mulvane will be today (April 22) when the Cats go to Buhler for a pair starting at 3 p.m. Then, on April 26th, the MHS baseballers will be at Andover for a CTL doubleheader. The first game there is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

## Chisholm Trail League Baseball Standings

### DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Valley Center	7	1	9	1
Maize	3	1	3	3
Goddard	4	2	7	3
Andover	3	3	5	3
Buhler	2	2	4	2
Mulvane	3	5	5	5
Nickerson	2	4	4	4
Augusta	1	3	4	4
Wellington	0	4	0	8

### DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Haven	5	0	5	0
Rose Hill	4	0	4	2
Circle	3	3	3	5
Medicine Lodge	0	0	0	4
Douglass	1	3	1	5
Clearwater	1	3	1	7
Belle Plaine	0	2	0	2
Bluestem	0	4	0	4

## Chisholm Trail League Softball Standings

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Valley Center	7	1	11	1
Maize	4	2	4	2
Mulvane	5	3	7	3
Wellington	3	1	6	2
Goddard	1	1	2	2
Andover	1	3	1	3
Nickerson	1	5	2	6
Buhler	0	2	0	2
Augusta	0	4	0	4

### DIVISION II

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Belle Plaine	8	0	8	0
Clearwater	4	0	4	2
Medicine Lodge	0	0	0	2
Haven	2	2	2	2
Rose Hill	0	2	3	3
Circle	0	2	0	2
Douglass	0	6	2	6
Bluestem	0	4	0	4



MHS senior Eric Tatum hits the dirt head first as he steals second base in the opener against Nickerson Monday