

Valley Pitching Silences Wildcats

Good pitching always puts the hurt on good hitting and the Mulvane High School baseball Wildcats are hurting following a whipping to open the new year Thursday, March 30, in front of a home crowd at the Mulvane sports complex.

The Wildcats, under the "second coming" of Dave Katzenmeier as head coach, were victimized by Valley Center in the season openers Thursday. The Hornets knocked the Cats for a loop, 14-3, in the first game and 15-0 in the nightcap.

"Those were some pretty awful games," said Katzenmeier. "We just ran into some pretty good pitching and got 'whipped.' That's just the story. They have been fielding some pretty fair teams up there at Valley Center and this is another one of them. We hurt ourselves defensively with some lapses and we didn't hit their pitching."

When that happens, you're gonna get whipped.

VC had a six-run third in the first game to

FIRST GAME

Valley Center	206	33	14	16
Mulvane	002	01	3	3
Ivey and Ben Wilson, Derek Boyer, Jared Rice 4, and Jeremiah Webb				
HR - Ivey 2, Roger Wilson (VC)				

SECOND GAME

Valley Center	000	8	15	19
Mulvane	000	000	0	0
Fitzner, Campbell 6, and Ben Wilson, Luke Scott, Jonathan Reed 4, Jared Rice 4, Austin Higinbotham 6, and Jeremiah Webb				
HR - Fitzner 3 (VC)				

knock senior Derek Boyer around and take an 8-0 lead and in the second game, the Hornets finally got to senior Luke Scott, scoring eight times in the 4th to sock things away.

"Boyer and Scott did a pretty good job in the early innings but they finally got their offense going," said Katzenmeier. "And we helped them out with some defensive errors. We made some errors and I know we can correct them. We just weren't up to the task defensively. I think over time, we'll get much better on defense."

Mulvane's offense sputtered all the way, getting only three hits in the first game and four in the second.

The Cats scored twice in the third inning of game No. 1 when Kyle McGuire walked and Austin Higinbotham singled. A run scored on Cale Carson's sacrifice fly before Jeremiah Webb swatted a base hit to left, scoring Higinbotham. Mulvane's only other tally came in the 5th when Sonny Creekmore walked, Carson singled and Creekmore scored on a passed ball.

In the nightcap, all four of Mulvane's hits came in the first two innings. Higinbotham and Carson, the first two hitters, and Scott and Jared Rice all had singles. Higinbotham was gunned down trying for third base and Carson was picked off first to end that rally.

"We just need to keep working and keep a positive attitude," stressed Katzenmeier.