

## Wildcats Buried

# It's All About Making Plays

The Mulvane High School baseball boys found out what happens when you don't make the plays.

It was "opening day" and Coach Ramon Wiseman's Wildcats played like it was their first outings of the season. Conversely, Valley Center, which had two games under its belt already, played like a team that had all the kinks out and bombed the Cats in both ends of a doubleheader in Valley Center Thursday, March 29. The scores were 11-1 and 11-0.

"We obviously didn't start the season the way we had hoped we would," said Wiseman. "We just made too many mistakes. There were unforced errors, mental mistakes, five or six errors and we lost a couple balls in the sun. It was that kind of day."

Wiseman will remember his first two games as the MHS head baseball coach for all those mishaps and also for the lack of hitting. Mulvane had only five hits in the Chisholm Trail League games. "You're not going to win many ball games hitting the ball like that," admitted Wiseman. "I think it was just first-game jitters. I know the kids can hit the ball better than that. We were getting frozen on the outside corner pitch and weren't pulling the trigger. The umpires were calling the corner strikes and we didn't swing the bats, and when we did, we didn't get much bat on the ball."

The Wildcat coach said Mulvane's inability to come through with runners on base also hurt. "That's one of the things that killed us all day," said Wiseman. "We didn't get any hits with two out. Valley would get the first runner or two on base and then start putting some hits together. We didn't."

It didn't take long for Valley to start a ruckus. The Wildcats punched across their only run of the day in the 2nd inning when Ryan McKnight walked, Ryan Tatum singled to left and Jake Myers bounced an RBI single up the middle, scoring McKnight. The Hornets answered in their half of the inning by shelling Mulvane starter Pat Myers for six hits and seven runs. Three Mulvane errors also helped undermine the confidence of the Cats defensively.

"We actually beat ourselves in both games," said Wiseman. "We should have been in both of those games. You take away our mistakes and we're there."

Kyle McGuire and Brian Love had back-to-back base hits in the 3rd inning but Mulvane didn't score and VC pitching retired the last seven Cat batters to close the contest out.

In the nightcap, Mulvane's only hit was a 2nd inning double by Jake Myers but it came with two outs and the Cats didn't score. In fact, Jake Myers and McKnight, who walked in the 4th inning, were the only Mulvane baserunners in the game.

"In the second game, we spotted them six runs so we were out of it early," said Wiseman. "They got a couple of hits but we just gave them too many outs to be effective. You can't do that against a quality team like Valley Center."

Wiseman did feel the Wildcat pitching wasn't on top of things either. Pat Myers and Jon Rogers issued seven walks in the opener and Brian Love and Jake Myers

### FIRST GAME

|                                                                         |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mulvane                                                                 | 010 00—1 4   |
| Valley Center                                                           | 071 03—11 10 |
| Pat Myers, Jon Rogers 5, and Ryan Tatum; Truman, Wilmott 5, and Wilson. |              |
| HR—Saner (VC), 2.                                                       |              |

### SECOND GAME

|                                                                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Mulvane                                                                             | 000 00—0 1  |
| Valley Center                                                                       | 610 4x—11 4 |
| Brian Love, Jake Myers 1, and Ryan Tatum; Campbell, Simon 4, and Hendricks, Gray 4. |             |
| HR—Litzner (VC).                                                                    |             |

gave up six walks in the nightcap, although Jake Myers pitched the best stretch of ball for the Wildcats after the Hornets knocked Love out with a six-run first inning in the 2nd game.

"Jake did a pretty nice job for us," said Wiseman. "He came in and threw a great game. He got the ball over the plate and that's what we need to have happening." Myers also had two of the Wildcats' five hits in the twinbill.

"We came back in our next practice and we had a great practice," said Wiseman. "The kids know they are a lot better than that, and I know it, too. We just had two terrible ball games to open the season."