

'Sour Notes'

Sink BB Cats

There's a physical part of every game and a mental part. Both need to work in harmony.

The Mulvane High School baseball Wildcats were singing off-key Monday evening, May 6, when they completed their regular season with a trip to Augusta. They hit just enough "sour notes" to let the Orioles slip away with a doubleheader sweep. The Cats lost, 5-3, in the opener, then got beat on a two-run homer in the first extra inning of the second game, a 3-1 Augusta victory.

The two setbacks left Coach Ramon Wiseman's Cats at 7-13 in the regular season and 2-10 in the Chisholm Trail League.

"Physically, we played a great ball game," said Wiseman. "Mentally, I don't know where we were. We lost both those games because of mental errors. We had base-running errors that hurt us and we didn't have anybody who wanted to step up when we needed the timely hit."

The double loss was discouraging because it once again wasted two fine pitching performances by Pat Myers and Austin Higinbotham and because the MHS boys played good baseball overall. "Those mental errors just kill you," said Wiseman. "We had people in scoring position about 80% of the innings but we couldn't cash in. It's hard to win ball games when you don't have any RBIs. And we hit two pretty good pitchers for most of the game but we didn't come through at the plate when we needed the clutch hitting."

Myers gave up six hits and walked five with 10 strikeouts. His trouble came in the 3rd when he issued two of those walks. Both scored, as did two other Orioles. Mulvane actually took a 2-0 lead in the top of the 3rd when Jon Rogers singled, William Fagan walked and both were sacrificed over by Luke Gunter. A run scored on an error and Fagan came to the plate on a ground out RBI by Higinbotham.

Mulvane appeared to have a big inning going in the 6th when Andrew Brusco slapped a no-out single and Ryan Tatum singled him to 3rd. Jimmie High's ground out brought in Brusco but that was the extent of

Mulvane Class 5A Regional Baseball TUESDAY, MAY 14

(Played at Mulvane sports complex)

Game 1 -- Pittsburg (11-6) vs. either Mulvane (7-13) or Winfield (6-12), 2 p.m.

Game 2 -- Arkansas City (13-5) vs. either Mulvane or Winfield, 4:30

Game 3 (Championship)-- winners of games 1 and 2,

7
the damage.

Higinbotham had his stuff working on the mound in game No. 1. He had a four-hitter in a 1-1 game going into an extra inning but Augusta broke through with a two-run homer that came after giving up his first walk of the night. That ended the game.

Augusta scored first but the Wildcats came back to knot the score at 1-1 with a "late-hour" tally. With two outs in the top of the 7th, Pat Myers ripped a single then went to 3rd on a single by Fagan. Gunter lined a shot to rightfield that scored Myers. Fagan stopped at 3rd but Gunter got nailed back at 2nd base to end the inning.

Gunter finished with two hits, Mulvane's only two-hit night. Fagan reached base three times and Brusco had a double.

Next up for the Cat boys is the Mulvane Class 5A Regional, which will be played Tuesday, May 14, at the Mulvane sports complex. The teams won't be officially seeded until Friday or Saturday after all four schools complete their regular season but this much is known now. Pittsburg, with the longest travel distance, will play the regional opener at 2 p.m. Tuesday and Ark City will play in the 4:30 game. Their opponents will be Mulvane or Winfield. The Vikings were 6-12 with one series left to play at El Dorado today (May 9). If the Vikings don't win one of those two games, Mulvane will be the No. 3 seed.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	002 001 0--3 5
Augusta	004 001 x--5 6
Pat Myers and Ryan Tatum; Maier and Spacht.	

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	000 000 10--1 8
Augusta	000 100 02--3 7
Austin Higinbotham and Ryan Tatum; Chavana and Spacht.	

HR--Lucas Sims (A).