

MHS Blue After Regional

Lack of clutch hitting had Mulvane High School baseball coach Ramon Wiseman singing the blues Tuesday, May 14, after the first round of the Mulvane Class 5A Regional baseball Tournament at the Mulvane sports complex.

Key words: "the blues."

Wiseman's Wildcats left 12 runners stranded and bowed out of the tournament in the opening round as Arkansas City pedaled past the Cats, 7-2. That launched the Bulldogs to the 5A State Championship in Salina next weekend as they whipped, 13-9, with a dramatic comeback with a 10-run 6th inning.

"The game was our season in a nutshell," said Wiseman. "All season long, we had just a hit or two here or there or an error here or there or a base running blunder here or there that cost us a ball game and it was no different against Ark City. Anytime you leave 12 runners on base, you're not getting the clutch hits. We couldn't bring those people in with the key hit, and I know we had second and third (base) at least three times but didn't score them."

Mulvane ended the game with the two

runners on in the final inning. "Offensively, I thought we were doing something right with all those people reaching base," said Wiseman. "We had only three hits but we were patient at the plate and they walked a bunch. We could get people in scoring position but we couldn't get them plated. They were giving us the squeeze to tie the game

in the top of the 4th but we couldn't get it down with two players." The Cats were helped by eight walks from AC and a hit batsman.

Mulvane's only scores came in the 4th inning after the Bulldogs had taken a 3-0 lead. Ryan Tatum singled, Jimmie High walked and Jon Rogers grounded out for an

RBI. After Jake Myers walked, Luke Gunter plated High with a grounder that was booted. Just about anything would have tied the game at 3-3 but nobody delivered.

Lefthander Pat Myers started and was tagged with the loss despite giving up only one earned run before giving way to Austin Higinbotham, who finished up.

Mulvane Class 5A Regional Baseball Tournament

CHAMPIONSHIP

Arkansas City 13, Pittsburg 9

FIRST ROUND

Mulvane 000 200 0--2 3

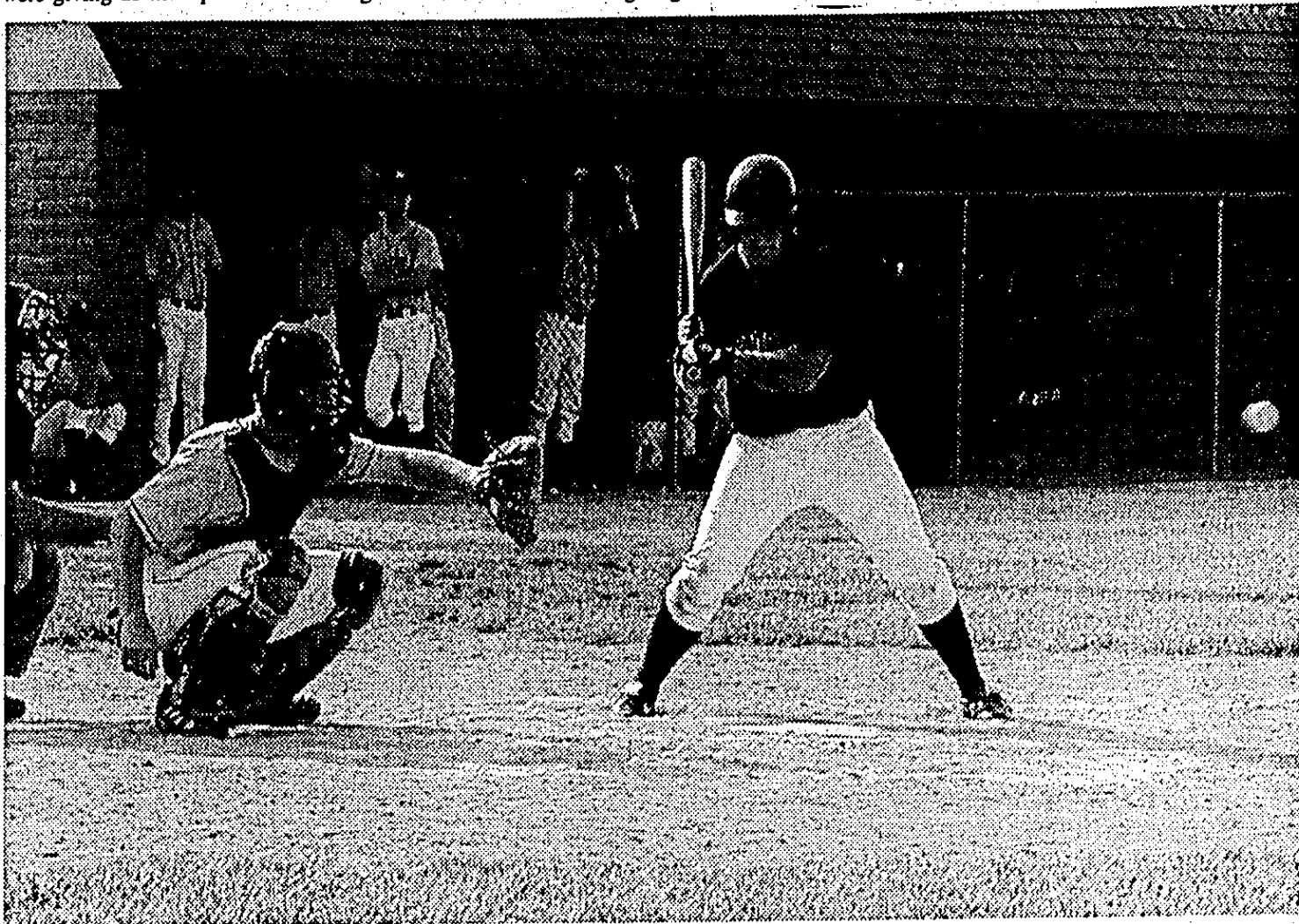
Arkansas City 021 121 x--7 9

Pat Myers, Austin Higinbotham 5, and Ryan Tatum;

T.J. Viola, Shawn Benton 4, and Kelly Hewitt.

HR--Dick Scram (AC).

Pittsburg 9, Winfield 8



Mulvane batter Jon Rogers leans in on a pitch that was wide in the Wildcats' regional loss Tuesday