

Cat Defense Comes To Play

For one of the few times this season, the Mulvane High School baseball defense came to play.

In a trip to Goddard Monday, April 21, the Wildcats played some of their finest ball of the season and that enabled Coach Ramon Wiseman's Cats to split two road games in the Chisholm Trail League.

Goddard won the first game after scooting out to a big lead and holding on for a 9-3 victory. Mulvane took game No. 2, 6-5, behind some strong pitching by lefty Pat Myers and relievers Jeff Wohlford and Jimmie High.

But the story of the series was a defense that didn't crumble. "We played well, really well," admitted Wiseman, whose Cats brought their record to 3-9 and snapped a four-game tailspin. "We had only two errors the whole night and that was critical for us. In that first one, we just never quite recovered from that first inning, but what impressed me is that we didn't let it explode on us like we have a few times earlier this year when we fell behind.

"Logan Sorensen pitched an excellent ball game for us but he is a slow starter. He was fine once he got started but he just had a hard time getting going in that first inning."

The Lions reached Sorensen for four runs in the inning but after that, he gave up only three more hits until tiring in the 7th.

The Wildcats tried to make it a game by getting their offense going in the 6th inning. Trailing only 5-0, Mulvane scored three times. William Fagan singled up the middle and Luke Gunter reached on a fielder's choice when the Lions got Fagan at 2nd. Nick Hall hit a single and Jeff Wohlford followed with an RBI double. Both Hall and Wohlford scored when Ben Humbolt ripped one into right-centerfield for a two-run single.

That was all the offense for Mulvane in the opener, though.

"Logan threw 43 pitches in that first inning but he finished with 110," said Wiseman. "I hated to take him out because he was pitching so well. Jimmie High came in and did a good pitching job in relief."

In the nightcap, the Wildcats hung in there despite Goddard rolling out to a 1-0 lead in the 1st inning and a 3-2 lead in the 3rd. The Cats punched across two runs in the 5th to take the lead when Jeff Wohlford and Humbolt blasted back-to-back doubles and Andrew Brusco cracked a RBI single.

Mulvane came up with two more in the 6th to take a 6-3 lead when Fagan reached on a throwing error and Gunter singled. Fagan scored on another error and Gunter trotted home when Hall grounded out.

High came in to save the game in the 7th after the Lions scored two to make it a one-run game, mowing down the two, three and four hitters to get the save.

"We had some of the younger kids step up with some clutch hits at Goddard but what I am most proud of is that we hung in there tough in the 7th inning when Goddard tried to

make a run at us," said Wiseman. "We held our ground. Hopefully, that will be a turning point for us. I'm finally seeing some of the kind of attitude that we are trying to get."

The Wildcats will be at Andover Central today (April 24) for another doubleheader. Game time is at 4 p.m.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane 000 003 0--3 4
Goddard 400 014 x--9 12
Logan Sorensen, Jimmie High 6, and Andrew Brusco;
Atkins, Bohanan 6, and Norris.

SECOND GAME

Mulvane 020 022 0--6 8
Goddard 102 000 2--5 7
Pat Myers, Jeff Wohlford 5, Jimmie High 7, and
Andrew Brusco; Jensen, Womack 5, Banwart 7, and
Norris.