

Wildcat Softball Team Bows Out In 1st Round

Udall brought the curtain down on one of the best softball seasons in Mulvane High School history Monday night, May 18, when the hosts iced the Wildcats, 8-5, in the opening round of the Arkansas City Class 5A-1A Softball Regional.

The loss ended the Mulvane season at 7-14. The seven victories represent the most ever by the Cat girls. A few years back Mulvane also won seven games.

"They made the plays when they needed to and we didn't," confessed MHS coach Charlie Mason. "They got the hits when they needed them and we didn't. They executed and we didn't. It was a very simple game. When we had the opportunities, we didn't take advantage of them."

Udall did, scoring five unearned runs in the sixth off four errors to take charge in the regional contest. "We talked all year long about our defense but the last few games, it let us down."

The Wildcats took an early 3-1 lead when they scored three times in the 2nd inning. Stacy Taylor walked and Dawn Hicks ripped a double. Melissa Maxey, batting for an injured Heather Pearman, reached on an error and a run scored. Tammy Maxey singled in a run and Amanda Meairs followed with an RBI single.

The Cats' only other runs came on an

RBI single by Stephanie Schultz in the 3rd inning and a single by Terri Holman in the 4th which scored Meairs, who had singled and stolen two bases.

The Wildcat softballers had a rough landing when they ended their regular season over the weekend. Bluestem rocked Mulvane twice Saturday, May 16, in two make-up games, and a day earlier, Valley Center smothered the Cat offense in a pair of wins.

That left the MHS record at 7-13 as the team headed into the first round of the Regional Tournament at Udall.

Bluestem slipped past Mulvane, 10-7, in the opener, then took eight innings before pushing across the winning run in an 8-7 verdict.

VC was much more definite. The Hornets, one of the top teams in the area, buried Mulvane, 10-0, in the first game at VC Friday, May 15, then rolled to an 11-1 victory in the second game.

Mulvane scored six times in the 4th of the opening game to get back in it against Bluestem, but had only one hit, a single by Meairs, over the last three innings. Hicks walked to start the rally in the 4th. After Tammy Maxey walked, Pearman rapped a two-run single. Schultz walked and Heather Taylor reached on an error with Pearman scoring. Meairs followed with an RBI single, Holman sacrificed another run in and Jayme Rousseau singled in the final run.

In the nightcap, Mulvane jumped ahead in the first with six runs when Meairs doubled and scored on an error. Holman and Schultz both walked in front of Stacy Taylor's base knock. Pearman reached on a single, as did Rousseau and Hicks for three more runs. Kendra Grunden singled in Hicks.

The Wildcats threatened in the 7th and again in the 8th but couldn't score to win the game. Hicks had three singles and Meairs, Pearman and Rousseau finished the set with two hits apiece.

There wasn't much offensively for MHS to cheer about at Valley. The Hornets no-hit Mulvane in the opener. Only the minimum of 15 batters hit in the five-inning shutout.

In the nightcap, the Cats logged their lone run in the 3rd when Schultz singled and scored on an RBI single by Holman.

Arkansas City 5A-1A Regional Softball Tournament

First Round

Mulvane	031 100 0-5 7
Udall	106 100 x-8 8

Terri Holman and Tammy Maxey; Pauly and Kincaid.

First Game

Mulvane	010 600 0-7 5
Bluestem	161 200 x-10 9

Mulvane battery: Terri Holman and Tammy Maxey.

Second Game

Mulvane	600 010 00-7 12
Bluestem	200 032 01-8 11

Mulvane battery: Terri Holman, Stacy Taylor 6, and Melissa Maxey, Stephanie Schultz 6.

First Game

Mulvane	000 00-0 0
Valley Center	512 02-10 6

Stacy Taylor and Tammy Maxey; Parks and D. Powell.

Second Game

Mulvane	001 000-1 4
Valley Center	220 007-11 8

Terri Holman and Tammy Maxey; Heather Barbosa, Grimes J, and Angela Barbosa, D. Powell 5.