

Andover Takes Two

Timely Hits

Doom Girls

There is a difference between hitting and timely hitting. Just ask Mulvane High School softball coach Charlie Mason.

Mason's troops opened their season Monday, April 5, with a doubleheader loss at home. Andover came to the Mulvane sports complex and escaped with a 7-4 opening win, then bounced the Cats, 18-14, in the nightcap.

The Wildcats rapped out 22 hits in the doubleheader but left too many runners on base, keeping the Trojans in the games.

"The first game was a good one, but it basically got down to one inning where we didn't play good bunt defense. That's what beat us," said Mason. "We played well, Laura Butler pitched well, but we left nine on base in the first game, including one bases loaded inning.

"Timely hitting, that's the thing," added Mason. "During the course of the two games, there were probably four times when we hit the ball hard and if it could have been one foot one way or the other, the hits would have been through, but they were right at their people. Those plays choked off some big innings." The Cats left the bases filled three times.

Butler gave up only seven hits but had to settle for the loss when Andover pushed across three in the fifth inning. Catcher Deva Lewis went 2-for-3 with two runs scored in the first game. She also walked to lead off the seventh inning when the Wildcats tried to rally but scored only one. Freshman Valerie Larson tripled Lewis home but the rally died there.

In the nightcap, freshman Gemi Spatz went 2-for-3 with one RBI and two runs scored, Lewis went 3-for-3 with one run and one RBI and Heather Taylor went 3-for-5 with one RBI.

Mulvane's top pitcher, Heather Pearman, was shelled in the second game but walks led to her downfall. Andover benefitted from 19 walks in the nightcap. "She's our most experienced pitcher but she wasn't consistent," said Mason. "And she paid the price with the walks. That's too many people to get on the basepaths and win. It seemed like we were second and third the whole game.

"I was pleased with the effort and pleased with the way we came back in the second game," added Mason. "I think the pitching will come. We had a lot of hits in

the second game (14 of them as MHS out-hit the Trojans, 14-6)."

The Cats tried to make a game of it but were going uphill from the word "go." Andover scored six runs in the first, then added three more in the third. Mulvane got back in the game with four in the fifth to trail only 11-9.

Six more by the Trojans in the seventh made it difficult, but the Wildcats gave it a go, scoring four times. Lewis singled with one out and Brooke Hanson reached on an error. When Jaime Hardison walked, the sacks were full. Taylor drove home two with a single and Valerie Larson reached on an error before Marianne Smysor walked to fill the bases again. Spatz walked to force in the final run. Stephanie Schultz' line shot was right at the second baseman for an out which took the steam out of the rally.

Mulvane will be going to Douglass today (April 8) for two games. The series starts at 4:30 p.m.



Andover runner slides under tag by Cat second baseman Heather Pearman

FIRST GAME

Andover 111 031 0-7 6
Mulvane 010 020 1-4 8
Basgall and Lawrence; Laura Butler and Deva Lewis.

SECOND GAME

Andover 603 111 6-18 7
Mulvane 202 141 4-14 14
Martin and Herr; Heather Pearman, Jaime Hardison 7,
and Deva Lewis.