

Three In A Row

Softball Girls Sweep Dragons

A ray of sunshine shot through gloomy weather last week when the Mulvane High School softball girls downed Belle Plaine in a doubleheader Friday, May 7, at the Mulvane sports complex.

It was the first twinbill sweep for the Coach Charlie Mason's Cats this season and boosted their record to 4-14. It also set the stage for a No. 2 seed in the Mulvane 4A Regional which will be held Friday, May 21, at the sports complex.

Mulvane scored a run in the bottom of the seventh inning to pull out a 6-5 victory in the first game, then settled back behind some fine pitching by senior Heather Pearman for a 9-3 win in the second game.

"The first sweep of the year is pretty sweet," said Mason. "The girls played two pretty good ball games. Our pitchers (Laura Butler and Pearman) did a good job keeping the ball in play and we again came up with a couple of timely hits. If we win our next two Friday, that would give us five in a row going into the regionals."

Mason said the two games had different scripts. "The first game was important to us because we got up, 5-1, then they came back and tied it. We lost a few earlier by losing a big lead but this time, the girls buckled down and came right back and won it in two ball games. In the second game, we got the lead and stayed focused."

The Wildcats charged from a 2-0 deficit in the first game by scoring five times in the fourth. Shannon Reed belted a one-out single and scored when Lee Cates tripled. Cates was later thrown out at the plate. Brooke Hansen kept the rally going, though, by walking and Butler also walked. Gemi Spatz singled in one run and Stephanie Schultz slapped a single to score two more runs. After Heather Taylor reached on an error, Deva Lewis singled with Schultz scoring.

Mulvane nursed that 5-2 lead until the sixth, when Belle Plaine pushed across three runs tying the game at 5-5. The Cats won it in the seventh when Lewis walked, stole second and scored on Marianne Smysor's single to end the game.

Schultz was the only Mulvane batter with two hits, and she had two more in the nightcap along with scoring three runs. Lewis had three hits in the second game and Spatz had two singles and scored twice.

Mulvane didn't give the visiting Dragons a breather, scoring three times in the bottom of the first in the second game. Spatz started the game with a single. After Schultz singled, Lewis, the team's leading hitter with a .588 average, looped a triple for two runs. She scored when Smysor reached on an error.

After BP made it 3-3 in the top of the

FIRST GAME

Belle Plaine	000 203 0—5 8
Mulvane	000 500 1—6 7
Taylor and Crawford; Laura Butler and Deva Lewis.	

SECOND GAME

Belle Plaine	003 000 0—3 3
Mulvane	303 201 x—9 11
Taylor and Grissom; Heather Pearman and Deva Lewis.	

Mulvane 4A Regional Softball Pairings

Friday, May 21

(At Mulvane sports complex)

Game 1 — No. 2 seed vs. No. 3 seed, 3 p.m.

Game 2 — No. 1 seed vs. No. 4 seed, 4:45

Game 3 (Championship)— winners of games 1 and 2, 6:30

third, the Cats came back with three more runs, then added two in the fourth to put the game away. In the third, Schultz singled and scored when Heather Taylor drilled a double. Taylor scored on Lewis' double, and Lewis scored from third when Smysor grounded out.

Cates tripled with one out to ignite the rally in the fourth. She scored when Spatz delivered a single. After a stolen base, Spatz scored on a wild pitch. Lewis's double scoring Schultz in the sixth was Mulvane's final run.

"One of the biggest things that pleased me in the second game is that we played the entire game without an error," said Mason. "We had a couple games with only one or two but that's the first time this year we played errorless."

"Heather (Pearman) really kind of dominated things. She gave up only three hits, but she had some good plays behind her. Stephanie Schultz made a good running catch in centerfield to end the game, and Heather Taylor at shortstop took care of all three batters in one inning. Shannon Reed keeps getting better and better at first base. We made the plays we had to make. We really have a lot of confidence carried over from our two previous games and the game before that when we beat Augusta."

Pearman spaced three hits in winning her second straight in the nightcap. Butler yielded eight hits in the opening win.

The Mulvane jayvee team inched past Belle Plaine, 8-6, in a junior varsity game played Friday.

These same teams are scheduled for a twinbill today (May 13) in the regular season finale for the Wildcats. Game time is 4:30 p.m. and the game has been moved to Mulvane.