

## Rally Dooms Cats

# Girls Stumped In 1st Game

Cash in on those chances and you cash in with a trip to the state tournament. But the Mulvane High School softball girls came up "broke" Friday, May 21, in the opening game of the Mulvane 4A Regional Softball Tournament held at the Mulvane sports complex.

The Wildcat girls couldn't hold off a last-inning rally which saw Bluestem score two times to take a 7-5 verdict, eliminating the Cats.

Rose Hill captured its first regional softball championship ever by blanking Bluestem, 8-0, in the title game. The Rockets moved into the first place game with a 6-0 decision over Douglass in its first-round game.

This is the first year the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) has separated 4A schools into a play-off of their own. In previous years, there was a 6A playoff and a 5A-1A championship. This year, the KSHSAA is sponsoring state meets in 6A, 5A, 4A and 3A-1A.

"Our regional game was disappointing," said Wildcat softball coach Charlie Mason. "We didn't hit the ball like we needed to hit it. We talked about scoring runs in every inning, and we did get off to a good start, but we didn't sustain it."

The Wildcats jumped out to a 3-1 lead after one inning but the Lions scored four times in the fourth, then snapped a 5-5 tie with two runs in the top of the last inning to win it.

"It was a pretty good ball game, we were right there to the end, but we couldn't answer them in the bottom of the seventh," stressed Mason. "That makes it two years in a row we've been beaten by their pitcher."

Bluestem's 7th inning push spoiled a

## Mulvane 4A Regional Softball Results

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Rose Hill 8, Bluestem 0

### SEMIFINALS

Bluestem 100 400 2-7 7

Mulvane 300 020 0-5 4

Kayci Karmanik, Tracie Hall 1 and Shala Graves; Heather Pearman and Deva Lewis.

Rose Hill 6, Douglass 0

pretty good pitching performance by junior Heather Pearman, who had given up only five hits going into the last inning. As is usually the case, a one-out walk started the winning rally. A single and a sacrifice fly followed to score one run and a single brought in another tally.

The Cats, who ended the season with a 6-15 record, started the game with a two-out rally in the first. Heather Taylor, Deva Lewis and Marianne Smysor all walked to fill the bases, and Pearman and Lee Cates both walked to force in two runs. Brook Hansen grounded to the right side but reached on an error to score the final run.

The Cats added two runs in the fifth when Heather Taylor singled with one out. Lewis continued her torrid hitting with an RBI double, then scored when Cates' hit to right was errored.

But there would be no rally in the big seventh. Smysor singled with two out in the seventh but Pearman flew out to end the game.

"We had our chances but didn't cash in on them," said Mason. "We've had a bad inning a couple times this year, and we had one when they batted around in the fourth. Udall beat us in the first game of the regionals last year. We have a great bunch of people, but we just need to take our game up to the next level."