

'Good Opener'

Girls Push Maize To Limit In Loss

Usually, the girls are back home by dinner time, but the Mulvane High School girls put in a late call for dinner Monday night, April 4, as they opened the softball season at Maize.

The Wildcat battled the defending Chisholm Trail League champions each game before the host Eagles sliced past Mulvane, 6-2, and 10-3, in the first games of the 1994 softball season.

"We got beat twice, but I was extremely pleased with the way we played," stressed MHS Coach Charlie Mason. "I think these were the first games that we've played the entire game against Maize. In the past, they have run-ruled us.

"Monday night, we hung right there with Maize in both games for most of the game and both games went the distance," added Mason. "Our pitching held up even though we've got a young pitching staff this year."

In the opener, it was 2-1 going into the last of the fourth. Maize hung up a "4" and it was too much for the Cats to come back from. Freshman hurler Jamie Wilson posted a seven-hitter. In the nightcap, Mulvane was ahead, 2-1, until the Eagles unleashed a five-run third, then pulled away against Susan Wenger.

"Wilson, in her first varsity job and going against the defending league champion, did a very commendable job," testified Mason. "Maize is going to be one of the best teams in the league again this year. She only walked three and had a seven hitter. Susan gave up only six earned runs and she did a fine job, too. I felt like our pitching was going to be ahead of our hitting at this stage of the season, and it is."

Mulvane managed only five hits in the opener and eight more in the second game. "We didn't get the 'W' in those two games, but we're so much farther ahead than we

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	001 010 0-2 5
Maize	020 400 x-6 7
Jamie Wilson and NiChelle Bruce, Grimsley and Bruce.	

HR—Jill Myrick (Mz).

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	200 010 0-3 8
Maize	015 220 x-10 9
Susan Wenger and NiChelle Bruce; Parke and Bruce.	

were last year from a team standpoint," said Mason. "These first four doubleheaders are going to be tough. We're playing the top four teams in the league, and we're just going to have to get out there and battle each one of them."

The Cats couldn't string together some hits and had to settle for solo runs in the opener. In the third inning, Mulvane's Marianne Smysor walked and scored when Stephanie Schultz lined a triple. Mulvane's only other run came in the fifth when Shamon Reed singled. She went all the way to third base when her hit got past the right-fielder and Reed trotted home when Schultz stroked a single.

The Wildcats took the lead in the first inning of the second game with a quick start. The hot-hitting Schultz led off with a single and Smysor beat out a bunt single. The Eagles mis-played the bunt and threw the ball away instead, allowing Schultz to score. Smysor scored two outs later when Lee Cates tripled.

Mulvane's only other tally came in the fifth when Brooke Hansen and Smysor both singled, putting runners at the corners. A double steal worked as Hansen scored.

The MHS girls will be at Andover for another twinbill today (April 7). The games will begin at 4:30. Their first home game will be when the Cats entertain Rose Hill for a 4:30 p.m. doubleheader Monday, April 11, at the Mulvane sports complex.