

'Make That A Double;' Girls Beat Buhler



Wildcat Laura Butler slides into home safely scoring against Buhler in season opener

Mulvane High School softball coach Charlie Mason pronounced his Wildcats ready but the weatherman had other ideas. Rains Saturday afternoon, March 25, had halted the season opening doubleheader against Buhler at the Mulvane sports complex.

The Cats had blown out to a 10-2 lead and it was 11-7 with MHS runners on all the bases in the bottom of the fourth when umpires called the game Saturday.

The Wildcats regrouped in a make-up twinbill Tuesday, March 28, at the Mulvane sports complex and sent Buhler packing with two losses. Mulvane won the opener, 17-7, then run-ruled the Crusaders again in the nightcap, 10-0, behind Susan Wenger's steady three-hit shutout.

"I think this is the first time we've started 2-0...but it's also the first time we didn't have to play Maize to start the season," commented Mason. "We did a good job in the first game getting the momentum back after they came on strong in the last couple innings of the postponed game. Jamie (Wilson) got it back together and we came through in the next inning to end the game."

The Cats pounded across six runs in the fifth inning after the Crusaders had closed to within four, 11-7, just before the game

was called Saturday afternoon. Lee Cates ignited the rally with a double and Shannon Reed was hit by a pitch. After Wilson's ground out plated Cates, consecutive walks to Laura Butler, Crissy Carpenter, Gemi Spatz and Heather Taylor forced in two runs before NiChelle Bruce was hit by a pitch for another tally. Walks to Cates and Reed accounted for the final two runs.

"Their pitcher struggled with her control but we took advantage of it," said Mason. "Wilson only gave up one hit, a two-run triple in the third inning"

The Cats got the season off in good fashion when they scored four times in the opening inning. Spatz walked after first hitter, Carpenter, was hit by a pitch. Heather Taylor reached on a fielder's choice when Carpenter was out at third. Cates, Reed and winning pitcher Jamie Wilson all were issued two-out walks sandwiched between several wild pitches.

Mulvane's first hit came in the third inning after five more walks and a hit batter led to three runs in the second frame. Laura Butler walked to start the third and she scored when Carpenter banged a single to rightfield. Spatz followed with a single. Cates capped the three-run rally with an RBI base knock.



Wenger was the story in the second game, striking out nine and issuing only three hits, two of which didn't even get out of the infield. "She came out and attacked their hitters," said Mason. "Both our pitchers did a good job. And I was real pleased with our defense. Our pitching and defense is going to have to carry us. We're going to have to scratch and claw for our runs."

Mulvane scored twice in the first inning of the nightcap, which is all Wenger needed. Spatz reached on an error and scored on a double by Bruce. Cates then singled.

FIRST GAME

Buhler	002 5 7 1
Mulvane	433 1 11 6

George and T. Patterson, Jamie Wilson and NiChelle Bruce.

SECOND GAME

Buhler	000 000 0 3
Mulvane	220 231 10 4

George and T. Patterson, Susan Wenger and NiChelle Bruce

Jayvee Games

FIRST GAME

Buhler	261 24 15 5
Mulvane	000 (10)0 10 6

Mulvane battery: Melissa Buchanan and Megan McCain

SECOND GAME

Buhler	101 2 4
Mulvane	85x 13 9

Mulvane battery: Melissa Buchanan and Megan McCain.