

Leaky Defenses Sink MHS Ship

A leaky defense helped sink the ship U.S.S. Wildcat Tuesday night, April 2, as the Mulvane High School softball girls bowed in a pair of one-run losses at Buhler.

The Crusaders sank Mulvane, 14-13, in the first game, then squeaked past the Cats, 8-7, in the second game, sending Coach Charlie Mason's gals to 0-4 for the season.

"We're not playing very good right now," said Mason. "We're scoring runs but we're also giving up too many runs. Defensively, we didn't play well. Until we stop beating ourselves, we're going to struggle. I think we'll get there but we need to make the plays in the field."

In both games, the Wildcats came within an eyelash of winning. In both games, they had the bases loaded in the last inning but didn't deliver the big hits.

Hitting standouts in the first game for the Cats were Valeri Larson with two hits and two RBIs, NiChelle Bruce, Gemi Spatz and Lindsay Kendrick with two hits each and Jamie Wilson with two RBIs. In the second game, Bruce had three hits, Larson went 2-for-4 and Spatz and Bruce both scored two times.

Mulvane started its season by trading 8-6 games with the Trojans at Andover Thursday, March 28. Andover won the first game, Mulvane snapped a 6-6 tie with two in the last inning and Wenger stopped Andover in the final inning to preserve the win.

"We had two pretty good ball games," stressed Mason. "One of the strengths we have to have is our defense and I was disappointed in our defense in both games. We made quite a few errors in each game. The good point, though, is that we were in position to make the plays but just didn't. Our pitchers did a pretty good job putting the ball in play but our defense let us down. We didn't make the plays."

Mason felt the Cats could have swept the Trojans if they would have been better at hitting in the clutch. "We left 10 runners on base in the first game and nine in the second," pointed out Mason. "We can't afford to not

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	403 103 2--13 11
Buhler	370 301 x--14 12
Jamie Wilson, Lindsay Kendrick 3, and Shelley Richards; George and T. Patterson.	

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	300 010 3--7 8
Buhler	000 440 x--8 4
Susan Wenger and Shelley Richards; George and T. Patterson.	

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	032 010 0--6 8
Andover	103 121 x--8 8
Jamie Wilson and NiChelle Bruce; Martin and Shaw.	

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	211 110 2--8 10
Andover	021 030 0--6 9
Susan Wenger and Shelley Richards; Shaw and Stuhlsatz.	

Jayvee Results

FIRST GAME

Andover 5, Mulvane 3

SECOND GAME

Andover 8, Mulvane 4

score when we get people on. When you leave people on base, you're not scoring them.

"Overall, we had two pretty good ball games, both teams were in both games all the way," said the MHS boss. "If we would have been more solid in the first game, we would have won both of them. We made too many errors and didn't hit in the clutch."

Cat pitchers Susan Wenger and Jamie Wilson both looked good. Wilson gave up eight hits but walked four in the opening loss. Wenger walked only two and spaced nine hits.

Wilson was the hitting standout in the first game. She went 3-for-4 with five RBIs. She had a triple that cleared the bases in the second inning that gave Mulvane a 3-1 lead. Valerie Larson singled and Janelle Wenke and Crissy Carpenter walked to fill the sacks before Wilson's double brought them home.

In the second game, the Cats won the game in the seventh inning, breaking a 6-6 tie with a pair of tallies. Carpenter started the rally by reaching on an error by the catcher after striking out. She scored on a passed ball. Lee Cates singled and stole second, scoring when freshman Lindsay Kendrick grounded out.