

Split Four Games

Softballers See The Light

It's no train. It's really daylight. That's what Mulvane High School softball coach Charlie Mason is seeing at the other end of the tunnel.

The Wildcats split four games last week but just as easily could have won four. The split left Coach Mason's Cats at 3-5 for the year heading into a home today (April 11) against Circle. The doubleheader starts at 4:30 p.m.

The first game at Douglass was a pitcher's duel and Mulvane freshman Lindsay Kendrick came out on the short end in a 3-2 loss Monday night, April 8, at Douglass. The Cat girls rebounded, though, in the second game breaking away for a 10-5 verdict.

"We're finally seeing some daylight, I think," said Mason. "We're playing better defensively. We still have an occasional lapse. If we start hitting the ball like I know we can, we'll be on our way. I know some of our girls haven't started hitting like they have in the past. We just need to get some consistency up and down the line-up."

The Wildcats had it in the second game when they pushed across four runs in the sixth inning and veteran Susan Wenger did the rest, blanking the Bulldogs the last three innings while Mulvane caught up.

Lee Cates started the big rally with a lead-off double. She scored when Jessica Sheridan singled and Sheridan came around to the plate on NiChelle Bruce's two-base knock. Shelley Richards walked and both girls came in when Valeri Larson singled on an 1-1 count. That gave Wenger the cushion she needed to go to 3-1 for the year.

Bruce finished with three hits and two RBIs and Larson also had two hits and three RBIs.

The opener was a heartbreaker for the Kendrick, who pitched well in her outing in replacing veteran Jamie Wilson, who is out with an injury. She walked four, struck out one and gave up only one earned run.

Mulvane nearly broke the game open in the fifth but lacked one big hit, "the" hit. Cates walked and Sheridan singled. Gemi Spatz also walked to fill the bases before Bruce belted a two-run single with two out. Richards, a freshman hitting clean-up popped to the shortstop to end the inning.

Sheridan, another freshman, went 3-for-3 with one run scored and Bruce had two more hits and both RBIs. In all, the Wildcats had only six hits.

"Lindsay pitched a whale of a ball game but we didn't hit the ball to give her any support," said Mason.

The Wildcat girls couldn't get their bats going against Augusta Thursday, April 4, in the team's home opener at the Mulvane sports complex. Augusta took the opener, 11-3, but Mulvane came back in the second game to trounce the Orioles, 12-11, behind some late heroics by Richards and Crissy Carpenter in a

three-run rally in the last inning.

Things looked pretty bleak as Augusta poured across six runs in the top of the seventh to take the lead but the Cat girls didn't give in.

Wenger, who had three hits, started the rally with a single. Kendrick reached on an error in the outfield. Bruce reached on a fielder's choice, which left MHS one out away. Richards ripped a double to score two runs and came in to score the winning run

when Janelle Wenke reached on an error and Carpenter laced a single, driving in the winning run and ending the game.

Overall, Carpenter had her finest game, banging four hits and knocking in two. Kendrick had three hits, too, and both Bruce and Richards had two hits, giving Wenger another winner.

In the first Augusta game, Carpenter and Wenke had two hits apiece and had one RBI apiece, too.

"We had too many 'at 'em' balls in the first game," stressed the Cat coach. "I kept urging the girls to just put a few line drives together but we kept popping the ball up and hitting it right at them."

"Overall, though I felt our comeback against Augusta was good," said Mason. "We fell behind, we came back and got the lead, then we made some plays to keep the lead in the last inning. That can do nothing but help us in the long haul."



Mulvane catcher NiChelle Bruce, right, stretches to tag an Augusta baserunner out in a rundown

FIRST GAME

Mulvane 000 020 0—2 4
Douglass 100 002 x—3 3
Lindsay Kendrick and NiChelle Bruce; Keller and Glaves.

SECOND GAME

Mulvane 310 024 0—10 9
Douglass 013 100 0—5 8
Valerie Larson and NiChelle Bruce; Tressner, Keller 2, and Glaves.

FIRST GAME

Augusta 210 015 1—10 13
Mulvane 000 012 0—3 7
Debra Finley and Billie Forrester; Lindsay Kendrick, Susan Wenger 6, and NiChelle Bruce.
HR—Billie Forrester (A), 2.

SECOND GAME

Augusta 002 120 6—11 12
Mulvane 301 212 3—12 17
Carr, Finley 5, and Billie Forrester; Susan Wenger and Shelley Richards.

Chisholm Trail League Softball Standings

(Includes games thru Monday, April 8)

Team	W	L
Valley Center	4	0
Goddard	4	0
Rose Hill	7	1
Douglass	3	1
Maize	4	2
Andover	3	3
Buhler	2	2
Mulvane	3	5
Augusta	2	4
Wellington	1	5
Circle	0	8