



MHS shortstop Gemi Spatz, left and Lindsay Kendrick converge on grounder with Kendrick starting a doubleplay

Big Sweep

Cat Bats Humming; Girls Take Crusaders

Can you hear them? The Mulvane High School bats were humming Monday, April 29, and the tune was something like "warm up the bus, Wellington."

The Wildcat softballers played some of their best ball of the season to sweep the Crusaders out of town in a pair of Chisholm Trail League games. The Cats won 10-2 in the first game then hacked out 13 hits in the second game on the way to an 11-4 decision.

"Those were two big games for us," emphasized Coach Charlie Mason. "They were big because we needed to get to get ourselves in position for the regionals. By getting two, it guaranteed us of playing at home in the first round and probably getting the No. 3 seed."

And it didn't hurt that the sweep came against a Wellington team that had an identical record with the MHS girls. Mulvane improved to 7-11 while Wellington stumbled to 5-13. Both teams will be in the Mulvane Class 4A Regional Tournament scheduled to start about 10 days.

"We've been working real hard the last week on trying to become more aggressive at the plate and hitting through the ball and I think it paid off," said Mason. "We're starting to get a few more hits." The Wildcats cracked 11 hits in the opener and 13 in the nightcap. They also took advantage of the Crusaders' weakness in fielding bunts to get things started.

"Going into the game, we felt like they had a couple problems on the infield with fielding the bunt and that problem materialized and helped us score some runs in the second game," said Mason. "As far as defense goes, we played an almost perfect game in the first one and that helped. So did Susan (Wenger) getting control of things. She got her stuff working and really took charge in the first game."

FIRST GAME

Wellington 200 000 0-2 7
Mulvane 030 322 x-10 11
Tara Strothman and Torneden; Susan Wenger and Shelley Richards.

SECOND GAME

Wellington 130 000 0-4 8
Mulvane 501 203 x-11 13
Tara Strothman and Torneden; Jamie Wilson, Ashley Wirth 6, and Shelley Richards.

Junior Varsity Results

FIRST GAME

Mulvane 23, Wellington 22

SECOND GAME

Mulvane 12, Wellington 9

Chisholm Trail League Softball Standings

Team	W	L
Valley Center	12	1
Maize	11	2
Goddard	13	3
Rose Hill	13	5
Andover	12	6
Douglass	5	5
Mulvane	7	11
Augusta	6	10
Wellington	5	13
Buhler	3	11
Circle	1	17

The Cat righthander has quietly become a tiger for the MHS pitching corps. She spaced seven hits and walked only one batter as she went the distance and squared her record at 5-5.

Early on, though, Wellington looked like trouble for Mulvane. The Crusaders started the game with three of the first four batters getting hits, including a two-run homer with one out, but that was all the Crusaders could muster the rest of the way against Wenger.

Mulvane went ahead in the second inning when Janelle Wenke lashed a two-run single, scoring Shelley Richards and Gemi Spatz. Wenke then scored when Crissy Carpenter singled. The Cats added three more in the fourth behind a couple errors and Jessica Sheridan's RBI single, then put the game away in the fifth with two more to take a 8-2 lead. Valeri Larson singled and was sacrificed to second by

Richards. With two out, Wenke walked and Lee Cates smashed a two-run single.

The Wildcat softballers jumped out in front in the second game, scoring five times in the first inning after two were out. Sheridan, who went 6-for-8 for the series, singled and took second on NiChelle Bruce's single. After two were out, the freshman Richards smacked a two-run single and Wenke walked. Spatz singled in Richards and both Wenke and Spatz then scored when Cates, who had been slumping, popped a two-run single, one of two hits in the game.

After Wellington made it a 5-4 game in the second, Mulvane pulled away with a run in the third, two in the fourth, then closed the door with three more in the sixth inning. Cates singled but was out at second on Carpenter's grounder. Lindsey Kendrick punched an RBI single in front of an RBI single by Sheridan. Bruce plated the last run when she grounded out and Sheridan scored her third run of the game.

Both Sheridan and Bruce went 3-for-4, Richards had two hits and three RBIs and Cates and Kendrick both had a pair of hits to back up another good game on the hill for Jamie Wilson, who won her first game with relief help from Ashley Wirth. Wilson gave up only seven hits but the key was that she didn't walk a batter.

"Wellington put us out of the regional last year in a 13-10 game, so we knew they could hit the ball," said Mason. "We wanted to score as many as we could, but Jamie gave us five good innings that that definitely helped."

"We felt like we could hit their pitcher because we have in the past," added the Cat

coach. "It was just a matter of scoring enough to stay ahead. Our pitchers took charge, though and we still made a bunch of runs. It sure makes it a whole lot easier when you don't have to worry about it."

The Wildcats will play their final regular season game at Valley Center today (May 2). The doubleheader starts at 4:30 p.m.