

# Solid Defense, Pitching Lifts Cats Into Semifinals

Solid defense and a career game on the hill by senior Susan Wenger. That was all it took for the Mulvane High School Wildcats to shoot down the Thunderbirds from Circle Monday, May 13, in the opening game of the Mulvane Class 4A Regional Softball Tournament at the Mulvane sports complex.

The victory boosted Mulvane's record to 8-13 and was to have sent the Cats into the semifinal round Wednesday, May 15, against No. 2 seeded Haven (9-11) in a 5 p.m. contest.

Wellington (6-15) upset Augusta, 5-4, in another opening round game Monday night, May 13, and advanced into the semifinal round against No. 1 seeded Rose Hill (13-7). That game was to have been played at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, followed by the Mulvane-Haven contest at 5 and the championship at 7. The winner will advance to the 4A State Championship next week in Manhattan's Ci-Co Park.

Wenger had her stuff working, keeping the Thunderbirds off balance and confused. She gave up only four hits and walked only one batter in her best outing of the year. She fanned three.

The Mulvane senior never was in much trouble. Circle, which ended its season at 1-

20, had two runners on in the first inning but had a runner cut down at the plate. The Thunderbirds also had two runners on in the fifth but lost one in a pick-off play at third base from shortstop Lindsay Kendrick to Sheridan at third base.

"We didn't do very a very good job of hitting the ball," confessed Charlie Mason, the MHS coach. "Fortunately, our defense and Susan's pitching held up. It was her first shutout of the year and it came at the right time.

"We made some good plays on defense and when it gets down to it, the team that makes the fewest mistakes is going to win the ball game," added Mason. "They made more mistakes than we did."

In Mason's opinion, that's what's going to separate the teams in the next two games, too. "That's always the key factor, who makes fewer mistakes," said Mason. "We just have to go out and play good, solid softball. We played (against Circle) as good as we've played all year in the field."

The Wildcat bats came alive only in two innings and only briefly. Mulvane took the early lead and gave Wenger all the cushion she would need by scoring two times in the first inning without the benefit of a hit, then put the game away with three more in the fourth.

Freshman Jessica Sheridan started the game by walking and scored when Janelle

Wenke reached on an error. Wenke scored after a stolen base and a passed ball when Shelley Richards grounded out.

Mulvane's scoring was much more legitimate in the fourth. Richards drilled a single to centerfield and scored on a single by Lee Cates. Cates stole second and scored when Crissy Carpenter's grounder went between the second baseman's legs for an error. Carpenter stole two bases and scored when Wenger's hit squirted off the third baseman's mitt.

The Cats finished with only three hits—Kendrick had a leadoff single in the fifth inning, but it was enough to advance Mulvane into the next round.



Mulvane third baseman Jessica Sheridan puts the tag on a Circle runner who got caught off third base on a play Monday



## Mulvane Class 4A Regional Results

### FIRST ROUND

Circle 000 000 0—0 4  
 Mulvane 200 300 x—5 3  
 Brandi Darnell and Missy Stolherd; Susan Wenger and Shelley Richards.

Wellington 5, Augusta 4

## Mulvane Regional Pairings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

(At Mulvane Sports Complex)

Game 3 — Rose Hill (13-7) vs. Wellington (6-15), 3 p.m.

Game 4 — Haven (9-11) vs. Mulvane (8-13), 5

Game 5 (First Place)—winners of games 3 and 4, 7

## Chisholm Trail League Final Softball Standings

Team	W	L
x-Valley Center	16	1
Maize	15	2
Goddard	17	3
Rose Hill	13	7
Andover	12	8
Douglass	7	5
Mulvane	7	13
Augusta	6	14
Wellington	5	15
Buhler	3	16
Circle	1	17

x—won CTL championship