

Sweep In Opener

Wildcat Pitching Too Much



Bringing the heat -- Jamie Wilson cuts loose in winning effort against the Crusaders

From the looks of the game, you couldn't tell who was undefeated and who was playing their first game of the softball season.

After the game, the answer to that question was one word: Wildcats.

The Mulvane High School girls opened their season Monday night, April 7, with a pair of stunning victories in a Chisholm Trail League game against Wellington.

Wellington was undefeated going into the series. The Cats were undefeated coming out of it. The Crusaders had the experience, having played four games. The Cats had their first action this year. And two good ones at that. The Wildcats played a fine defensive game behind a three-hitter by senior Jamie Wilson for a 4-1 opening win, then came back with an 11-run explosion in the second inning of the nightcap to put the game away early, 19-3.

Wilson's performance caught Mason's eye, especially since she had been struggling in practice. "She had a great game," said Mason. "She came out really strong. What impressed me is that when the bell rang, she responded and was the pitcher I thought she could be. She finished strong after being hurt a year ago and it just carried over. Plus, we made some good plays defensively behind her. Our defense settled down and made the big plays we had to make."

The second game wasn't much of a contest after the second inning when the Cats bombed Wellington with an 11-run inning.

That made things easy for Foy, who spaced six hits and walked only two batters in her four inning of work. Richards finished up with a spotless fifth.

"In the second game, they helped us out quite a bit," said Mason. "That's the thing I have stressed. You give a team four, five, six outs, it's going to come back to get you. In one inning they had four errors that helped us score the 11 runs and that kept things going. Their pitcher also helped out by having a few walks in there.

"Overall, though, we came out of it with a good hitting game. A lot of people really stepped up and helped out. Sabrina stepped it up a notch in her first varsity start and pitched four good innings. That gave us a chance to throw shelly some, too."

Here's now the big inning started. Ashlock was hit by a pitch and Wilson hit a double with Ashlock getting thrown out at third. Two errors and an RBI single by Rachel Rose started the ball rolling. McColpin and Kendrick both walked and later scored when Jana Smith singled. Other RBI hits came from Ashlock and Wilson.

In that game, the Wildcats banged out 10

Varsity Softball

FIRST GAME

Wellington	000 000 1	1	3
Mulvane	211 000 x	4	6

Tara Strothman and Yunker; Jamie Wilson and Shelley Richards.

SECOND GAME

Wellington	003 00	3	6
Mulvane	0(1)6 2x	19	12

Trish Strothman, Tara Strothman 4, and Yunker; Sabrina Foy, Shelley Richards 5, and Richards, Jana Smith 5.
HR--Shelley Richards (M).

Mulvane at Medicine Lodge, DH, postponed until May 12, 4 p.m.

hits with the frosh Rose, Wilson and Ashlock connecting on two hits apiece. Ashlock finished the game with four RBI's, and Richards ended the game on a high note with a two-run homer in the fourth inning.

The Mulvane girls will be back in action today (April 10) when they travel to Circle for a pair of games beginning at 4 p.m.

"I was real concerned because of their 4-0 record and the fact that we were playing our first game," emphasized Coach Charlie Mason. "I think we played better than I had hoped for. Wellington has always come in and been able to hit our pitching hard. When we've been able to beat them, we've out-scored them but our pitching did a great job in both games. I felt like it was pretty impressive in both games."

The righthander Wilson had a super game. She spaced three hits and struck out four and kept the ball in play most of the way. A doubleplay in the last inning helped quell a Crusader rally just when things were starting to look grim. With the Cats leading, 4-0, Wellington started the last inning with a triple and a single, scoring one run. The next batter, however, grounded to sophomore shortstop Lindsay Kendrick, who flipped to Crissy Carpenter at second for one and the relay to Foy at first effectively nipped that rally even though an error and a single followed before a ground out ended the game.

"That was a big play," said Mason of the twin-killing.

The Wildcats started the game with freshman Jackie McColpin singling and going to second when Kendrick was hit by a pitch. After a double steal, Jana Smith's grounder scored a run and another run scored on NiChelle Perry's ground out.

Heather Williams scored with two out in the second inning after a single. She went to third on an error and scored when McColpin slapped her second single. Catcher Shelley Richards made it 4-0 in the third inning when she singled and scored when Cara Ashlock whacked a three-bagger.