

MHS Girls Crumble At Valley

It was a defensive nightmare.
Next question!

The Mulvane High School softball girls struggled in the field both ends of a Chisholm Trail League twinbill Monday night, May 5, at Valley Center. Guess who won?

"There's now a whole lot to say about the Valley Center series," confessed MHS Coach Charlie Mason. "Defensively, we didn't play well. It was pretty disappointing coming off the Maize series. We have them one big inning in each game and against good people like that, you're going to lose if you do that."

The host Hornets ripped the Wildcats, 12-2, in the opener, then blew open the nightcap in the very first inning, scoring 12 times on their way to a 14-2 landslide. The losses left the Cats at 6-8 for the year and 5-7 in the league.

"They have probably the best hitting team we've seen this year but when they did hit it at us, we didn't make the plays," said Mason. "It was frustrating for everybody in green but you have days like that. Now, I'm working on the next six (games)."

Mulvane's only noise in the opener came in the very first inning when the Cats took a short-lived 2-0 lead when Lindsay Kendrick singled, stole second and scored on Jessica Sheridan's base knock. Sheridan stole a base, too, and scored on an error. Valley hammered MHS starter Ashley Wirths for nine hits and broke the game open in the second, scoring six times.

In the nightcap, well, it was over after one. Four errors and a host of hits against Cat starter Jamie Wilson totaled up 12 runs. Mulvane's only scoring came from Sheridan, who scored after a single in the third and Jana Smith, who scored on an RBI single in the fourth by Crissy Carpenter.

The Wildcats played well Thursday, May 1, against Maize but had trouble with

Eagle hurler Tricia Grimsley, the league's MVP a year ago. She's tough. Mulvane scratched out only four hits but struck out 14 times in the opener and bowed by a 6-1 count, and the Eagles got it going in the second game to blast Mulvane, 10-3, to complete the sweep.

"We played real good ball," noted Mason, "but the difference was that they hit the ball and we didn't. Grimsley did a real good job against us. They threw her the whole first game, then brought her back after we got three in the first inning of the second game.

"I was pleased, though. On defense, we played well, and Wilson threw a great game in the opener. We just couldn't put any hits together. Consequently, you don't score runs. That was the difference."

Wilson had one of her best outings in the first game before the Eagles broke a scoreless game up with two in the fifth, then added three more in the 6th as the Cat defense cracked a bit with two errors.

An inning earlier, Wilson had worked her way out of a bases-loaded, no out jam with a short fly to right, a force at the plate and a strikeout, but that only delayed the breakout by league-leading Maize in the 5th.

Mulvane rallied in the bottom of the 5th. Cara Ashlock singled and stole second. Freshman Jackie McColpin doubled to left and Ashlock made the dash from third to

home successfully when the leftfielder bobbled the ball a tad. The Wildcats tried it again in the sixth when Sheridan walked and went to third on Kendrick's base hit but there were two outs and Grimsley turned it up a notch to strike out the final Cat.

Maize tried to slip in its No. 2 hurler in the second game but Mulvane quickly shelled her for three runs and Grimsley promptly re-entered. Kendrick walked with two out and scored when Ashlock ripped a double. Shelley Richards then slapped a single, scoring Ashlock. Sheridan singled and NiChelle Perry doubled for a run to usher in Grimsley, who retired the side with no further damage. She gave up only two hits the rest of the way.

The Eagles finally broke through against Mulvane pitcher Wirths in the third, taking the lead for good with four runs.

The Wildcat junior varsity had an outstanding outing when Maize came to town for

a pair Thursday, May 1, at the Mulvane sports complex. The Cat girls swept two from the Eagles marking the first time Mulvane has beaten Maize in softball at any level. The MHS varsity never has beaten Maize.

Coach Kelly Dennis' Mulvane jayvee team edged Maize, 6-5 and 7-6 in extra innings.

Mulvane won the first game when winning pitcher Kassie Hargrove walked, stole second and scored on a passes ball in the bottom of the last inning to snap a 5-5 tie. The Mulvane JV's, now 8-4 on the year, won the second game in even more dramatic fashion, scoring once in the 5th to send the game into extra innings, then winning it with two runs after Maize had scored one time in the top of the sixth. The Cats won it when Kimble walked and scored on Watson's triple, then consecutive walks to Aubrey Benjamin, Kayla Masters and Sadie Redinger forced in the winning tally.

Chisholm Trail League Softball Standings

DIVISION I

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Maize	8	0	10	0
Goddard	9	1	11	1
Valley Center	7	3	12	3
Andover	5	5	9	5
Mulvane	5	7	6	8
Wellington	3	9	8	10
Buhler	2	8	2	8
Augusta	1	7	3	9

DIVISION II

x-Rose Hill	10	0	13	3
Douglass	7	3	12	4
Clearwater	3	3	5	8
Medicine Lodge	2	2	2	2
Bluestem	2	4	2	6
Belle Plaine	1	5	1	10
Circle	1	9	3	13

x--clinched CTI. championship

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	200	00-2	5
Valley Center	063	3x-12	15
Ashley Wirths and Shelley Richards; Jennifer Lee and Candi Oller.			

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	001	10-2	9
Valley Center	(12)00	2x-14	16
Jamie Wilson and Shelley Richards; E. Lee and Mandy Hansen.			

FIRST GAME

Maize	000	023	1-6	9
Mulvane	000	010	0-1	4
Grimsley and Kelly; Jamie Wilson and Shelley Richards.				

SECOND GAME

Maize	004	330	0-10	16
Mulvane	300	000	0-3	6
Frasco, Grimsley 1, and Reed; Ashley Wirths, Shelley Richards 4, and Richards, Jana Smith 4.				

Junior Varsity Softball

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	000	00-0	1
Valley Center	201	0x-3	5
Mulvane battery: Kassie Hargrove and Sara Redinger.			

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	300	10-4	7
Valley Center	160	2x-9	11
Mulvane battery: Kassie Hargrove, Kayla Masters 4, and Sara Redinger.			

FIRST GAME

Maize	212	00-5	7
Mulvane	131	01-6	7
Mulvane battery: Kassie Hargrove and Sara Redinger.			

SECOND GAME

Maize	100	401-6	11
Mulvane	031	0012-7	9
Mulvane battery: Kayla Masters and Sara Redinger.			



MHS's Cara Ashlock is safe at home -- Mulvane's only runner