

Cats, Rose Hill Trade Regional Blows; No Return Trip For Mulvane SB Girls

The last three years, Mulvane and Rose Hill have played spectacular softball, each time in a Regional championship game.

The two teams hooked up for another spectacular special Wednesday, May 21, at in the Haven Class 4A Regional title game and it turned out to be a little more special for the Rockets, who prevailed by a 4-1 count to advance to the state tournament this weekend in Manhattan.

Mulvane's Wildcats had to settle for a one-way ticket home and the school's finest record, 13-9.

"We played a real good ball game," said MHS coach Charlie Mason. "They hit the ball and we didn't. That was the difference in the game. They got six hits and we had only three. We put the ball in play a lot of times but they made the plays. Their outfielders made a couple big plays on fly balls

Haven 4A Regional Tournament Results

CHAMPIONSHIP

Rose Hill 002 002 0—4 6
Mulvane 010 000 0—1 3
Wendi Howard and Jill Graham; Ashley Wirths and Shelley Richards.

SEMIFINALS

Clearwater 100 303 0—7 10
Mulvane 220 000 4—8 12
Biby and Bloomer; Jamie Wilson and Shelley Richards.

Rose Hill 5, Augusta 0

FIRST ROUND

Augusta 9, Haven 6
Clearwater 9, Circle 0

and their infielders, who were shaky early, settled down and made the plays they had to make. It was just another great ball game played between the two schools."

The Cats had to come from behind to clip Clearwater, 8-7, in a thrilling semifinal and Rose Hill advanced at Haven by taming Augusta, 5-0, in the other semi.

"I thought we played an excellent ball game," added Mason. "You can't say enough about the Ashley (Wirths). She pitched a whale of a ball game. It was one of those where the team which gets the breaks is going to win it, and they got the breaks. I'm certainly disappointed in the loss, but not the way we played because we played well."

Wirths walked only one batter and gave up six hits. That proved to be a couple too many because the Cats could muster only three safeties.

The Wildcats took a 1-0 lead in the second when catcher Shelley Richards singled and scored on Jana Smith's grounder. Mulvane's only other hits were singles by Jessica Sheridan in the fourth and a two-out base knock by Richards in the seventh. Rose Hill came back to gain the lead by scoring twice in the third on three hits and then added two more in the 6th, taking advantage of Mulvane's only error of the game for one unearned run.

In the first game at Haven, Mulvane got off to a fast start, leading, 4-1, after three

innings. Clearwater, which had softball for the first time this season, struck for three in the 4th, then took the lead with three more in the 6th to take a 7-4 lead that Mulvane overcame in the 7th with four runs to win it. Cara Ashlock singled with one out and Richards singled. After an error, Wirths reached base when the Indians tried to catch Ashlock going home on a grounder. She scored instead and that set up a clutch two-out double by senior Crissy Carpenter,

putting the Cats ahead. Freshman Jackie McColpin followed with a single driving in pinch-runner Sabrina Foy with the final run.

"I think we took them for granted a little but the girls scrambled like heck to get back on top," said Mason. "That's what makes the second game all that more important. We didn't play all that well in the Clearwater game, but we played an outstanding game in the championship."