

Wildcats Take Indians After Adjustments

Adjusting to slower pitching was the biggest problem facing Mulvane High School girls softball batters Monday night, April 6, when Medicine Lodge came to town for a non-league series.

The Wildcats had just opened their season Thursday, April 2, facing Valley Center and its group of heat-throwing pitchers. The Hornets handed the Cats two losses, slipping past Mulvane, 7-5, in the first game and dumping the Cats, 7-3, in the second game. VC had some outstanding pitchers who held Mulvane in check.

It was a different problem Monday. Although the Wildcats evened their record at 2-2 by sweeping the Indians, 6-0 and 7-1, it wasn't all fun and games. "We played well against Medicine Lodge, but I thought we played better against Valley in the openers. We just didn't hit the ball like we did against Valley. The speed of pitching made it difficult to adjust to after seeing Valley Center's pitchers. It took us most of the first game to adjust to the pitching."

Mason said the Mulvane defense was solid throughout against the Indians. "We didn't make a whole lot of hard plays but we made the plays we needed to," stressed Mason. "I thought our pitching was the key against Medicine Lodge. They had a hard time hitting both Kassie (Hargrove) and (Ashley) Wirths."

Hargrove was pressed into service after Shelley Richards had to take over second base for a sick ballplayer instead of pitching. But Hargrove was tough, giving up only two hits and striking out five. In the nightcap, Wirths fanned three but didn't give up a walk.

Mulvane finally started the bats rum-

bling in the 5th inning to break open a 0-0 tie. Kristin Buchanan started things with a double and came in to score when Jackie McColpin doubled. After Jessica Sheridan walked, freshman Danielle Vanderhoof knocked in a pair of runs with a sacrifice fly to right. Cara Ashlock walked and was plated by a single by Richards.

That was all the offense the Cats needed behind Hargrove's stellar effort.

In the second game, the Cats didn't wait to tee off. They scored twice in the first when McColpin reached on an error and scored when Hargrove singled. Hargrove

then scored on a passed ball.

Mulvane put the game away by punching across one in the fifth inning without the benefit of a hit, then scored two more in the sixth. Sabrina Foy singled and scored on a wild pitch. Hargrove walked and so did Ashlock before another wild pitch enabled Hargrove to race to the plate.

The VC games were thrillers. The Hornets broke out to a 5-0 lead before the Cats chipped away and finally got within one, 5-4, going into the sixth. Sheridan's ground out scored McColpin, who had doubled, to make it a 5-4 game, but VC came

back in the top of the seventh to score two more. Mulvane only scored once but had the bases filled when the end came. Kristin Buchanan was hit by a pitch and came home on Lindsay Kendrick's sacrifice after singles by Vanderhoof and Sheridan filled had the sacks.

The Wildcats out-hit VC in the nightcap, banging out 13 hits but Mulvane left 10 runners stranded. That spoiled a nice effort by Richards, who walked only three and fanned three.

McColpin and Vanderhoof both went 3-for-4 and Richards had two hits for the Cats.



Third baseman Jessica Sheridan (31) is framed by a Valley Center runner as she stretches for a hot one down the line

Mulvane

Sports

FIRST GAME

Medicine Lodge 000 000 0-0 2
Mulvane 000 042 x-6 6

Lukins, Crater 5, and Price; Kassie Hargrove and Danielle Vanderhoof.

SECOND GAME

Medicine Lodge 000 001 0-1 3
Mulvane 203 120 x-7 4

Crater, Lukins 5, Belle 6, and Price; Ashley Wirths and Danielle Vanderhoof.

FIRST GAME

Valley Center 203 000 2-7 12
Mulvane 001 210 1-5 6

Lee, Lisa Harden 5, and Oiler; Ashley Wirths, Kassie Hargrove 7, and Shelley Richards.

HR—Roach (VC).

SECOND GAME

Valley Center 000 403 0-7 9
Mulvane 002 010 0-3 13

Lisa Harden and Oiler; Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof.