

# MHS Softball On A Roll; Push Win Streak To Six

Mulvane's pitching and defense paralyzed Nickerson, just like it had done to powerful Rose Hill four nights earlier.

The Mulvane High School softball Cats were unstoppable at Nickerson Monday, April 20, or at least the pitching was. Shelley Richards pitched a two-hit gem in the opener, and Kassie Hargrove made it a double shutout by holding the Panthers to only four hits in the nightcap as the MHS girls boosted their record to 8-4 with their third straight doubleheader sweep.

The bats were swinging behind the junior hurlers, too. In game No. 1, Jackie McColpin, Richards and Hargrove had two hits apiece and in the second game, Jessica Sheridan, Ashley Wirths and freshman Danielle Vanderhoof had two hits each. Vanderhoof's were both doubles.

"We just overwhelmed them," confessed Coach Charlie Mason, whose girls have won six in a row. "Our pitching just dominated. Shelley (Richards) and Kassie (Hargrove) simply were too much for them. They couldn't get around on either one of them, and really, we never had any threats all night. They had a couple get to third base but we threw them out. I said at the first of the year that pitching and our defense were going to have to carry us and it has come true, although we have started to hit the ball. Defensively at Nickerson, we were rock-solid."

After scoring once in the first, Mulvane rolled out to a 5-0 lead with four in the second. Hargrove reached on an error and scored when Wirths singled. Kristin Buchanan walked after Wirths stole two bases. An error plated Wirths and Buchanan came in on a McColpin base knock. She ended up at third and scored when Sheridan hit a fly to right.

Seven more in the 5th locked it up for Richards, who was sailing along in great fashion without letting a runner get past second base. Big hits in the inning were RBI singles by McColpin and Vanderhoof and a two RBI single by Lindsay Kendrick.

It was more of the same in the nightcap as the Mulvane SB girls bashed 10 hits. After two scoreless innings, the Cats broke through for one in the third on a McColpin run-scoring single, then punched in two in

## FIRST GAME

Mulvane	140 07--12 9
Nickerson	000 000 0-0 2
Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof; Gaston and Sturgeon.	

## SECOND GAME

Mulvane	001 213 1--8 10
Nickerson	000 000 0-0 4
Kassie Hargrove and Shelley Richards; Creep and Sturgeon.	

## FIRST GAME

Rose Hill	010 00- -1 2
Mulvane	133 22 -11 11
Sarah Anthis, Chelsea Stancoff 4, and Michelle Swenson; Kassie Hargrove and Shelley Richards.	

## SECOND GAME

Rose Hill	0010 100 0-1 3
Mulvane	000 004 x 4 6
Sarah Anthis and Michelle Swenson, Ashley Wirths, Shelley Richards 4, and Richards, Danielle Vanderhoof	
Junior Varsity Softball	

Mulvane 20, Nickerson 4  
Mulvane 15, Nickerson 5  
Rose Hill 7, Mulvane 1  
Mulvane 15, Rose Hill 14

the 4th when Richards walked and scored when Wirths singled. She scored on Vanderhoof's first double.

Four more in the sixth made it official, the big hits coming on RBI singles by Kayla Masters, Sheridan and Kendrick.

"Kassie is 4-1 and doing a good job," added Mason. "She probably should be undefeated but Goddard came back and scored a couple runs late in the game. Her earned run average is about 1.06."

The whole staff has been doing great. The trio of Hargrove, Richards and Ashley Wirths have an E.R.A. of 1.48 through 12 games.

"Our hitting was better against Rose Hill but it took us a while to catch up with their pitcher," added Mason. "Everybody's starting to hit it, though, and that's good."

The Cats put to rest, at least for now, an old rival, Rose Hill, with a sweep at home Thursday, April 16. Mulvane mowed the Rockets down rather easily, 11-1, in the first game, then out-played the Rockets, 4-1, in the second one. The Wildcats have never swept the Rockets.

"That was our first sweep over them, in fact, we had only beaten them one other time," said Mason. "We jumped on them quick in the first game. I know they are going to be a factor later on in the season but it was sure nice to beat 'em. And that second game was sweeter than the first game since we scored four in the bottom of

the sixth to put them away.

"Again, our pitching really dominated," added the Wildcat coach. "Ashley pitched early and when they got the bases loaded, we brought in Shelley and she shut them down. Kassie had another strong game, too. It's sure a nice feeling to have the pitching, and we're not even able to use Sabrina (Foy), who won four games for us last year."

Hargrove was outstanding in the first game as she stayed on top of the RH team, allowing only two hits. She walked only one and had only one base runner the rest of the way after working out of a bases-loaded jam in the second inning.

Meanwhile, the MHS offense was purring right along on 11 hits. McColpin went 3-for-4, Vanderhoof went 2-for-2, Wirths went 2-for-3 and the Rose Hill defense did the rest.

The Wildcats put the game away with back-to-back three-run innings in the second and third, and Richards knocked in two runs with a double in the last inning to end the game on the run-rule.

In game No. 2, Wirths had a steady performance, giving up only three hits and one unearned run before Richards came on in the fourth and completely dominated the Rose Hill bats. She didn't allow a hit over the last three-plus innings.

The Mulvane junior varsity continued to put on a show at Nickerson Monday. The girls slugged their way past the Panthers twice to improve to 8-3 for the year. The Cats romped Nickerson, 20-4, and 20-5. Sherri Lasiter gave up only one hit in the opener and Amber Payne scored four times and both Lasiter and Rachel Hamer scored three. In the second game, Aubrey Benjamin's two-run homer keyed an eight-run second. Natalie Turner and Amber Payne scored three runs apiece.

The Cat JV's split with Rose Hill Thursday, losing by a 7-1 count in the opener and coming back for a 15-14 thriller win in the nightcap. Annie McCullough was the winning pitcher and also scored the winning run in the sixth on a hit by Lasiter, who had three hits. Benjamin and McCullough scored three times apiece and Hamer and Stormy Eddie scored twice each. Mulvane's only run in the opener came across with Natalie Turner in the second.