

Pitching Jobs Power Up Wildcat Softball Machine

Shelley Richards and Kassie Hargrove made it seven and eight.

That's how many in a row the Mulvane High School girls softball team has won. Richards and Hargrove held Buhler in check in a softball doubleheader Thursday, April 23, at the Mulvane sports complex. Richards spaced three hits as the Wildcats rolled to a 4-1 verdict, then Hargrove matched that performance by throwing a four-hitter in an 11-1 victory.

Those games boosted the MHS girls to 10-4 on the season and 6-4 in the Chisholm Trail. The girls were to have entertained Andover in another CTL twinbill Monday, April 27, but that series was rained out and rescheduled for May 11th.

"The first one against Buhler was kind of a struggle," emphasized Coach Charlie Mason. "We didn't hit the ball very hard against their first pitcher. She wasn't quick and that kept us off-balance. The only time we did hit it hard was when we scored our runs. Shelley did the rest. She got behind a few hitters but walked only a couple of batters. They only hit three balls to the outfield so she had them guessing. Our defense was solid, especially the infield where all the hits were going."

The Wildcats took advantage of an early rally to take a 2-0 lead after one inning. Lindsay Kendrick started the rally with a hit and Richards drove a ball down the line in left to score Kendrick. Cara Ashlock then doubled and drove Richards home.

The only other Mulvane runs came in the third inning. With one out, Jessica Sheridan doubled and scored a wild pitch and passed ball later. Kendrick kept the rally going with a single and Richards knocked her to the plate with a double to leftfield.

"That was our offense but it was effective," said Mason. "Our defense played great ball again. I've said all along that it's going to come down to pitching and defense and we've been outstanding in both categories so far this year."

Hargrove went the distance in the nightcap. She struck out three but didn't walk a batter. "Again, our defense helped her out and she just kept the ball in play," said Mason.

The Cats broke away from a 0-0 game with three in the second, then blew the game open with six more in the fifth. In that inning, Jackie McColpin reached on an error and Sheridan bunted for a hit. Kendrick filled the bases when she made it to first as the Crusaders tried to get McColpin at third but failed. Richards busted a base hit, scoring two runs, and another one came in on Ashlock's ground out. Hargrove reached first on an error with one more run scoring and Kristin Buchanan's RBI single finished off the rally.

The run rule went into effect when the Cats scored two more in the sixth on RBI hits by Hargrove and Kayla Masters.

The Cat jayvee softballers hiked their record to 10-4 Thursday, April 23, when they split with Arkansas City. The Cats lost by a 5-4 count in the opener but rallied in the nightcap to tear up the Bulldogs, 14-7. In that game, Aubrey Benjamin scored three runs and Stormy Eddy, Natalie Turner and

Amber Tillemans scored two runs apiece to support a good pitching effort by Sherry Lasiter. In the opener, the Cat JVs scored four times in the first inning but couldn't hold the lead, losing it in the last inning when Ark City snapped a 4-4 tie. Benjamin, Amber Payne, Allison Kimble and Turner scored one time each.

FIRST GAME

Buhler	000 100 0—1 3
Mulvane	202 000 0—4 6

Reade and Dickerson; Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof.

SECOND GAME

Buhler	000 100—1 4
Mulvane	030 062—11 11

Schmidt, Robinson 6, and Dickerson; Kassie Hargrove and Shelley Richards.

Andover at Mulvane, DII, postponed, rain

Junior Varsity Results

Buhler 5, Mulvane JV 4
 Mulvane JV 14, Buhler 7