

# Milestone For Mulvane Softball Girls

Mark up a "milestone" victory for the Wildcats Thursday, April 1, at Valley Center.

The Mulvane High School softball girls opened their season in a big way at VC. They posted the program's first-ever win over the Hornets after more than 12 years of trying. Mulvane clipped VC, 2-1, in the first game of a doubleheader at Valley. The hosts came back in the nightcap, however, and dumped Mulvane, 2-0.

"It was certainly a good win," said MHS Coach Charlie Mason. "We had never beaten Valley so it means an awful lot. The girls knew it, too, so it was a pretty special victory. And we nearly won both games. The last game showed us some things we need to work on, our hitting. We hit the ball but we hit it right at them."

It was a great way to start what should be a tremendous year for the MHS girls. Righthander Kassie Hargrove picked up where she left off a year ago by holding Valley in check most of the way in the opener. She came down the stretch last year with a flurry of victories before losing a tight one to eventual state champ Desoto in the first round of the 4A State Tournament.

The game's turning point, however, came when the Hornets scored their only run. Two hits and an error brought in one run with no outs yet. Hargrove wiggled out of the inning, though, when the next batter fouled to catcher Shelley Richards and the next one struck out. After filling the bases with her only walk, Hargrove fanned the

**FIRST GAME**

Medicine Lodge	010 001 0--2	5
Mulvane	103 101 x--6	9

Nuttler and Marsh, Kassie Hargrove and Shelley Richards

**SECOND GAME**

Medicine Lodge	000 01--1	1
Mulvane	40(10) 0x--14	9

Lukens, Poland, Marsh, Dohm, and Bell, Shelley Richards, Sara Simpson, and Danielle Vanderhoof

**FIRST GAME**

Mulvane	000 001 1--2	3
Valley Center	000 100 0--1	6

Kassie Hargrove and Shelley Richards, Lindsay Davis and McAllister

**SECOND GAME**

Mulvane	000 000 0--0	2
Valley Center	001 001 x--2	4

Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof, Erin Lee and McAllister

final batter.

Mulvane scored a run in the sixth when Sabrina Foy singled to right with one out. Pinch runner Rachael Hamer stole second but rounded the base too far. VC actually could have thrown her out but the pitcher threw the ball into centerfield and she came on in to score, tying the game at 1-1.

Mulvane made it 2-1 in the top of the seventh when Jackie McColpin led off with a double and took third on a wild pitch. Lindsay Kendrick plated McColpin with a sacrifice fly to center.

Valley came back in the bottom of the seventh to solve Hargrove's deliveries for two hits but didn't score. The Hornets had the tying and winning runs on base position at first and third. A batted ball struck the

runner trying to go to second base, which is an out. With runners still at the corners, Hargrove escaped when she got the final out as the last batter tapped back to the mound.

"That (hit runner) kind of took the steam out of their rally," said Mason. "It was a good split, though. Anytime you can go to Valley and split, it's positive. That's what we needed to do and that's what we did. You always go over thinking you're going to take two, but they have one of the top teams around."

In the nightcap, the Wildcats couldn't get anything going, spoiling a pretty good pitching performance by Richards, who struck out four and didn't walk a batter. She gave up only four hits, too.

The only hits for the Cats in game No. 2 were a double by sophomore catcher Danielle Vanderhoof and a double by Hargrove in the fifth. Mulvane's best chance for a run came in the second inning when Vanderhoof reached on an error and Aubrey Benjamin worked a one-out walk. Ashley Wirths reached first when her hit struck Benjamin going to second, which kind of killed that rally. The final batter popped up on the infield.

"We just couldn't put any hits together," said Mason. "And we had a couple of errors that led to unearned runs for both of Valley's scores."

"They scored one of those runs in the third inning but we could have just as easily had a triple play. Lindsay (Kendrick) got a glove on a hit up the middle but couldn't

hang on. They had two runners on and they were going on the pitch."

Mulvane ran its record to 3-1 Tuesday, April 6, by sweeping past Medicine Lodge in a pair of games originally scheduled a day earlier in Medicine Lodge. Those games were postponed one day by rain and moved to Mulvane, where the Wildcats roughed up the Indians, 6-2 and 14-1.

"Our hitting came around against Medicine Lodge," said Coach Mason. "You always like to see that early in the season. And our defense was pretty solid, but our pitching was really good. Kassie gave up only five hits and didn't walk a batter and in the second game, Shelley had a no-hitter going for the first four innings. We wanted to give Sara (Simpson, a freshman) some work and she gave up only a bunt single. Shelley just dominated while she was in there. She didn't have a ball hit to the outfield."

In the hitting department, McColpin went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and one RBI in the first game. Kendrick was 2-for-3 with one RBI and Danielle Vanderhoof went 2-for-2 with one run scored.

Offensive leaders in the second game included Aubrey Benjamin, who went 2-for-3 with two RBIs and one run scored. Richards and Vanderhoof, who scored three runs apiece, and McColpin, who scored twice and went 2-for-3.

Their next game will be today (April 8) when Goddard comes to the Mulvane sports complex for two games. There is a 4:30 p.m. starting time.