

Sweep Nickerson

Right Mix For MHS S-Ballers

What a formula: good pitching, timely hitting and excellent defense. And most of the time, it's a formula for success.

Coach Charlie Mason's Mulvane High School softball girls mixed that formula again Monday, April 19, to subdue Nickerson in both ends of a Chisholm Trail League doubleheader at the Mulvane sports complex. The Cats won the opener, 4-0, and took a 6-1 edge in the nightcap.

"We were steady," said Coach Mason. "We played some great ball. We played flawlessly in the field. Our pitchers (Kassie Hargrove in the opener and Shelley Richards in game No. 2) pitched well and we had some good hits when we needed them. That's what it's all about. When you get all three of those elements working at the same time, like we did against Nickerson, it usually means you win the game."

And all three of those elements were working overtime for the Cats in the first game. Hargrove put zeroes on the scoreboard. She improved her record to 3-2, striking out seven and walking only two.

"On defense, we just made the plays," said Mason. "Nickerson hit only three fly balls to the outfield and a couple of singles. Kristen Buchanan ended the game with a catch in rightfield."

"What I liked about both games is that everybody contributed, everybody had a hand in doing something to send us in the right direction. Sometimes people only look at hits and don't see the other important aspects of the game like Jessica Sheridan and Sabrina Foy both hit the ball to the right side when we had runners at second base. That enabled the baserunners to get to third and they later turned into runs. It's important that everybody does what they have to do."

Mulvane started the game with Jackie McColpin hitting a double past the leftfielder down the line. She scored when Danielle Vanderhoof banged a single. Hargrove singled to start the second and, after a couple stolen bases, she scored when Foy grounded out to the right side. That gave the MHS hurler room to work and a 2-0 lead.

Mulvane added two more in the sixth when Sheridan walked and Lindsay Kendrick singled. Both moved up on stolen bases and Vanderhoof's bat thundered once more, driving a single up the middle to score both runners.

In the nightcap, Mulvane broke the game open with five runs in the third. That was more than plenty for Richards, who struck out five and walked two. She pitched a three-hitter and boosted her record to 4-1.

FIRST GAME

Nickerson 000 000 0-0 3
 Mulvane 110 002 x-4 8
 Julie Greeb and Allen; Kassie Hargrove and Shelley Richards

SECOND GAME

Nickerson 000 001 0-1 3
 Mulvane 005 100 x-6 10
 Julie Greeb, Gaston J. and Allen; Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof

Junior Varsity Results

Mulvane 21, Nickerson 1
 Mulvane 24, Nickerson 0
 Mulvane 15, Wellington 5
 Mulvane 25, Wellington 10

Mulvane Sports

It all came together in a hurry in the 3rd inning when Rachael Hamer singled with one out and scored when McColpin nailed a triple. McColpin, who went 4-for-4 in the game, scored after Kendrick reached on an error when Vanderhoof singled. Kendrick came in when Richards singled and Foy followed with the crowning blow, a two-run single.

Mulvane's final run came in the 4th, giving Richards a 6-0 lead to work with. Buchanan reached on a fielder's choice after Ashley Wirths had singled. McColpin singled to put two runners on and Kendrick brought the run in with a single.

"The second game was similar to the first one," said Mason. "Shelley was dominant and kept them off-stride. On defense, we had one bad throw and we put together the hits when we got the opportunity."

"I'm real pleased with how we played," emphasized the Wildcat skipper. "They were league games, the games also were against a team that we could meet in the regionals and we were consistent."

The Cat JVs had no trouble putting Nickerson on the next bus back to Nickerson Monday, April 19. Mulvane spanked the Panthers twice, 21-1 and 24-0, as Cristin Richards and Sara Simpson both pitched two-hit gems. The twin wins moved the junior varsity to 6-1 for the season.

In the opener, Stephanie Sanchez and Richards ripped three hits each to pace the Mulvane 12-hit assault. Emily Turner went 2-for-3 with three runs scored and Stormi Eddy, Tyan Scott and Josalyn Marksberry scored three runs each. In game No. 2, Simpson struck out eight of the 13 batters



Third baseman Jessica Sheridan spears a grounder and gets an out against Panthers

she faced and the Cat bats were singing. Sanchez went 4-for-5 with three RBIs. Marksberry also had three RBIs, going 2-for-4. Richards had three hits and scored four times and Kris Lazar also scored four runs. Bob Carmichael went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs scored and Amber Tillemans rapped three hits, scored twice and had two RBIs.

The Wildcat junior varsity bombed Wellington's JV team to boost their record to 5-1 for the season under Coach Jayson Miller. The Cats, playing at home, trounced the Crusader JVs, 15-5, in the opener, then slammed 12 hits in a 25-10 nightcap win.

In the first game, Simpson got stronger as the game progressed, retiring eight of the last nine batters. She finished with a seven-hitter, striking out seven. Bob Carmichael ripped three hits and scored three runs, Cristin Richards went 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Stephanie Sanchez scored twice and went 2-for-4 and Kris Lazar had two hits and scored three runs.

Everybody got in their cuts in the nightcap with Josalyn Marksberry belting a grand slam homer in Mulvane's 13-run first inning. Marksberry had a great game, knocking in seven runs and scoring four as she went 3-for-4. Natalie Turner went 4-for-4 and scoring four times, Lazar had three hits, scored three times and had two RBIs. Jinny Crain knocked in a pair of runs and scored once and Carmichael went 2-for-2, scored three times and had two RBIs. Pitcher Annie McCullough was the beneficiary of the outburst and she gave up only five hits.

The MHS girls will be going to Buhler for a twinbill today (April 22). The first game is slated to begin at 4:30 p.m. The Wildcats were to have played Rose Hill in a series Thursday, April 15, but those games were postponed because of bad weather. The RH doubleheaders will be made up at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 1st, in Rose Hill. The JV games also will be in Rose Hill.