

## 1-1 At Rose Hill

# SB Wildcats Becoming Proficient In Wacky Finishes; Nose Out Maize

It was a pitcher's paradise Saturday, May 1, at Rose Hill's Shorty Cox Sports Complex and that day concluded a week of Mulvane High School softball that wasn't for the weak of heart.

Playing six games in four days, the Wildcat SBers crammed in two 1-0 games at Rose Hill and their first victory ever over Maize. The Cats started the blitz Wednesday, April 28, by sweeping past Andover in two road games, 8-4, and 3-1. Maize came to town Thursday, April 29, but had to limp out of town after the Wildcats won the series finale, 3-2, in a thrilling extra-inning game. Maize notched a 3-0 verdict over Mulvane in the opener.

The pair of 1-0 games Saturday in another make-up series got the heart beating even harder. Rose Hill won the first game but the Cats rallied behind "old reliable" Shelley Richards, who capped a phenomenal week. She held RH to only one hit, pitched a three-hitter to win against Maize and pitched a two-hitter against Andover.

The split at Rose Hill left the Wildcats at 13-5 with only a doubleheader against Augusta today (May 6) left before the Regionals May 17-19.

"The Rose Hill games were just two pretty good ball games," confessed Coach Charlie Mason. "Shelley did her thing in the second game and was pretty much untouchable, although she did have to work her way out of a jam in the 7th inning.

Mulvane's lone run came in the 6th when Danielle Vanderhoof and Richards

both reached on fielding boo-boos by the Rockets. That left pinch-runner Rachael Hamer at 3rd and Richards at second. Jessica Sheridan grounded to short to drive in Hamer.

In the opener, the Rockets made a single run in the 4th stand up despite several Mulvane threats. "We ran ourselves out of a couple innings that should have given us the victory," said Mason. "And we had a couple of calls go against us but it just boils down to the fact that we didn't get the hit when we really needed it. Their pitcher kept us off-balance the whole game."

The play of the game came as the Wildcats tried for a miracle finish like the one they had one game earlier against Maize. Ashley Wirths started the 7th with a base hit but was forced at second on Kristin Buchanan's grounder. Buchanan went to second on a wild pitch. With one out, Aubrey Benjamin rapped one up the middle that was fielded by the RH shortstop but her throw to first was low and fumbled by the first sacker. Benjamin was safe but on the fumble, Buchanan tried to make it to third but was gunned down by a perfect throw. The top of the order was up but Jackie McColpin's grounder up the middle was speared by the pitcher.

Both wirths and McColpin had two hits in that game. Freshman Sara Simpson and veteran Kassie Hargrove scattered six hits but couldn't pick up the victory.

The Wildcats have been playing Maize for years but never have beaten the Eagles

until the nightcap Thursday. A scoreless game was broken up in Maize's half of the 8th inning with two runs, but the Wildcats came back in a wild bottom of the 8th to win it with three runs.

"It was really big for us because the girls showed a lot of heart," said Mason. "To come back like that after not ever beating this team was something special. It was one of the more thrilling games of the year and it was important to our program. Now these girls have the school's first victory over Maize and Valley Center, too. It was sure sweet revenge."

It appeared over after the Eagles broke through for two unearned runs against Richards in the first extra inning. Benjamin opened the winning drive with a double in the gap in left-centerfield. McColpin and Lindsay Kendrick followed with singles as one run scored. No. 3 hitter Danielle Vanderhoof was called out on an odd and very rare call when, trying to bunt the runners over, she was hit by a batted ball out of the batters box. Richards followed with a base hit and Sheridan was again the hero when she singled and the ball was booted, allowing the winning run to score.

At Andover, Wirths knocked in three runs and Kendrick and Benjamin had two hits each in the opener. Richards was the story in the second game with a two-hitter but McColpin went 2-for-4, Richards was 2-for-3 and Sheridan had two hits and an RBI to spark the offense.

The Cat jayvee softballers ran their record to 12-6 with a flurry of games last week. The Mulvane JV girls split with Rose Hill in a make-up series Saturday, May 1. RH won the first game, 6-3, but the Mulvane bats came alive in the 2nd game for 11 hits and a 14-1 rout. Two days earlier, Mulvane was treated roughly by Maize, as the visiting Eagles swept the Cats, 12-5, and 5-0. On the road at Andover in a rare Wednesday game caused by rainouts, the MHS jayvee girls bombed the Trojan JV's, 12-1 and 17-2.

Pitcher Annie McCullough spaced three hits in the nightcap against Rose Hill and

### FIRST GAME

Mulvane	000 000 0—0 7
Rose Hill	000 100 x—1 6

Sara Simpson, Kassie Hargrove 6, and Shelley Richards; Sarah Anthis and Brianna Beran.

### SECOND GAME

Mulvane	000 001 0—1 4
Rose Hill	000 000 0—0 1

Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof; Danielle Beran and Brianna Beran

### FIRST GAME

Maize	110 001 0—3 9
Mulvane	000 000 0—0 6

Mountain and Reed; Sara Simpson and Shelley Richards

### SECOND GAME

Maize	000,000 02—2 3
Mulvane	000 000 03—3 10

Mountain, Woodard 8, and Reed; Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof

### FIRST GAME

Mulvane	004 400 0—8 7
Andover	103 000 0—4 5

Kassie Hargrove, Sara Simpson 4, and Shelley Richards; Cole and Dickershed

### SECOND GAME

Mulvane	200 001 0—3 8
Andover	010 000 0—1 2

Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof, Fox and Dickershed

### Junior Varsity Softball

Rose Hill 6, Mulvane 3  
 Mulvane 14, Rose Hill 1  
 Maize 12, Mulvane 5  
 Maize 5, Mulvane 0  
 Mulvane 12, Andover 1  
 Mulvane 17, Andover 2

Bob Carmichael and Stormi Eddy went 2-for-2 with two runs scored. Natalie Turner also had two hits and knocked in two runs.

There wasn't much to cheer about against Maize but Josalyn Marksberry went 2-for-2 with two RBIs and Turner was 3-for-3. The Cat offense did much better at Andover. In game No. 1, Stephanie Sanchez went 2-for-4 with two runs scored, Cristin Richards knocked in three runs and scored two with her 2-for-3 effort, Turner had two RBIs and scored two and Tyan Scott had two hits and scored one. It was more of the same in the second game as Mulvane ripped 10 hits to back Cristin Richards' four-hitter. Kris Lazar went 2-for-4 with four RBIs, Jinny Crain was a perfect 2-for-2 with three RBIs and Eddy scored four times, knocked in two runs and went 2-for-2.



Wildcat Kristin Buchanan is tagged out at third in key play at Rose Hill