

Girls Sweep; Regionals Next

Cast a spell. Use a mirror. That's the Mulvane softball offense but so far, it's been good enough to help propel the Wildcats to the best season in school history...again.

The Wildcat softballers swept two games from Augusta Thursday, May 6, at the Mulvane sports complex, concluding their regular season at 15-5 and a second place finish behind Valley Center in the tough Chisholm Trail League Division I with a 12-4 record.

It wasn't a cakewalk. Mulvane won, 2-1, in the first game, then 4-2 in the second game despite being out-hit in both games...badly. Mulvane had four hits in each game and the Orioles had eight in the first and 13 in game No. 2.

"I don't think Shelley (Richards) has given up 13 hits in her last six outings," said Coach Charlie Mason, the architect of MHS's revitalized softball program. "It wasn't one of her better outings but Augusta can hit the ball, too. We hung in there and made the most of our hits. She was in trouble with base runners in every inning but we played real good defense behind her and she got the big outs when we needed them."

Mason said both Kristin Buchanan and Jackie McColpin made good catches in the outfield and the Cats had few errors. "When the chips were down, Shelley and our defense bailed us out time and again," said Mason. "Shelley has been awfully tough this year." lead. Hargrove was seeing her first pro-

The sweep enabled the MHS girls to snap up a No. 2 seed in the Haven Class 4A Regional, which is scheduled to start Monday, May 17. Mulvane won't play until Wednesday, May 19, and will play at 4:45 p.m. against the winner of the Smokey Valley (1-13) and Wellington (12-8) game played in Monday's first round. The No. 1 seed is Clearwater, which sports a 16-4 record.

When the Mulvane varsity takes the field at Haven next week, the Wildcats will be trying to get to State for the third time in the last four years. The Wildcats first qualified for the 4A State Tournament in 1996, were eliminated in the regional finals in 1997 and returned to Manhattan in 1998.

Richards hiked her record to 9-1 by stranding 11 runners. She fanned six. She worked out of bases loaded jams in the 4th and 6th innings.

The Cats took advantage of four Oriole miscues and their only four hits to rally from a 1-0 deficit with four runs in the 3rd inning. Ashley Wirths started the assault with a leadoff single and Aubrey Benjamin reached on an error. Jackie McColpin singled for a score. Lindsay Kendrick reached on an error with a 3rd run scoring and the final runner scored when Danielle Vanderhoof singled.

In game No. 1, the Cats had another close brush. Augusta broke through against MHS righthander Kassie Hargrove with a run in the top of the 6th inning, taking a 1-0 longed work after sitting out several starts

First Game

Augusta 000 001 0--1 8
Mulvane 000 002 x--2 4
Simon and Keller, Kassie Hargrove and Shelley Richards

Second Game

Augusta 100 001 0--2 13
Mulvane 000 400 x--4 4
Spirex and Greenwood, Shelley Richards and Danielle Vanderhoof

Junior Varsity Results

Augusta 18, Mulvane 5
Mulvane 5, Augusta 4

Haven Class 4A Softball Regional Monday, May 17

FIRST ROUND

Game 1 -- Wellington (10-10) vs. Smokey Valley (1-15), 3 p.m.

Game 2 -- Haven (9-9) vs. Nickerson (7-13), 4:45

Wednesday, May 19

Game 3 -- Clearwater (16-4) vs. winner of game 2, 3 p.m.

Game 4 -- Mulvane (15-5) vs. winner of game 1, 4:45

Game 5 (Championship)--winners of games 3 and 4, 6:30

with an injury. Hargrove wasn't at her best, though, walking three. She normally doesn't walk anybody. She gave up eight hits.

The Wildcats won it by scoring twice in the bottom of the sixth. Kendrick smacked a double and scored when Richards reached on an error. Jessica Sheridan plated her when she hit a single.

"Hargrove looked good at times in there but she got tired at the end because she hadn't worked that much lately," said

Mason. "And you can't say enough about Jessica Sheridan. She has bailed us out in the last three ball games with big hits at the right time. She struggled earlier but is coming up big for us now.

"Defense and pitching have carried us all year and that's a fact. And it's going to have to continue to carry us. Our offense has shown some signs of getting it together, though. We just need to get more aggressive at the plate and get good swings in there."

The Cat junior varsity closed out the season Thursday by splitting a pair of games at the sports complex against Augusta. The Orioles ripped the MHS jayvees, 18-5, in the opener but Mulvane came back in the nightcap behind a nice seven-hitter by Cristin Richards to take a 5-4 verdict. That left Mulvane's JV record at 13-7 for 1999 under new JV coach Jayson Miller.

Mulvane couldn't stop Augusta in the first game as the Orioles' bats were booming for 21 hits. The highlights for the Cats came on Josalyn Marksberry's RBI single in the first, hits by Natalie Turner and Marksberry and Bob Carmichael's RBI in the 3rd and a two-run homer by Tyan Scott in the 4th inning. Mulvane bounced ahead with a four-run opening frame in the nightcap as Marksberry slammed a three-run double and Stormi Eddy had an RBI hit. The winning run was scored in the 2nd inning when Jinny Crain doubled and scored when Amber Tillemans grounded out.