

Rose Hill
Mulvane

000 000 000 000 000 000 04--4
000 000 000 000 000 000 00--0

Wildcats Snuffed Out



Danielle Vanderhoof, right, and Katie Rose whoop it up after another Simpson 'O'

Everybody wondered if it would ever end, and once it did, nobody wanted it to.

The Mulvane High School softball girls and Rose Hill battled nose-to-nose for a long time Thursday, April 12, at the Mulvane sports complex. They battled through seven innings. They battled through 10 innings. They battled through 14 innings. And they finally battled through 17 innings before Rose Hill finally broke out with four runs for a 4-0 victory in 17 innings.

The two teams had another outstanding game in the nightcap, but the Cats' comeback with four runs in the final inning fell a hit short in an 8-7 loss to the Rockets.

The series was a tough, draining setback for the Cats and Coach Charlie Mason.

"It was a hard game to lose, to go that long and to play that well, it's hard to lose one like that," confessed Mason. "That was one of the best games by two teams that

I've been a part of. Both sides had numerous chances throughout the game and both teams' defenses kept making the plays.

"You can't say enough about the game (Sara) Simpson pitched and for that matter, (Rose Hill pitcher Danielle) Beran. It was a nerve-racking kind of game but the strategy and everything going into the game, that is what softball is all about."

The game set the school record for longest game for both schools. Mulvane's old record was 14 innings a couple years ago against Goddard.

"Both teams had a chance to win it and both teams had a chance to lose it," said Mason. "We had two runners thrown out at 3rd base and one runner thrown out at the plate. And our defense made numerous plays, too, to keep them from scoring. In the end, they executed when they had to."

The end came suddenly, just after the fans had gone to get another big box of popcorn, figuring this thing could go all night. Simpson, who issued only three walks and fanned 11 batters, walked the lead-off hitter in the 17th. The Rockets tried to bunt her over and the Wildcats tried to get the runner at second but both were safe. Another sac attempt ended with Mulvane nailing the runner at 3rd base. However, the next batter, No. 9 in the batting order, lined a double that broke the ice and gave RH a 1-0 lead.

Mason opted for the percentage play by walking the next batter to fill the sacks with only one out and the plan looked good for an out but Nicole Ringwall blasted a triple to clear the bases and give the Rockets a 4-0

lead with three outs to play.

Beran was up to the task and she continued mowing down Mulvane batters with a 1-2-3 17th to end the game.

The Wildcats had their chances but couldn't ring the bell. In the 4th inning, Melissa Doerfer led off with a single and Dani Phillips reached on an error. Both runners advanced in a double steal but the meat of the Mulvane order couldn't produce.

Katie Rose singled, went to second on a wild pitch and stole third with one out in the 5th but Beran got the next two batters without a breakthrough. Josalyn Marksberry singled to start the 10th but was cut down trying for 3rd base on an overthrow.

Perhaps the best threat came in the 11th for Mulvane. Doerfer, who went 3-for-6, singled again and went to second on Dani Phillips' single. But Doerfer was cut down at 3rd when Danielle Vanderhoof tried to move the runners over and the inning ended with two runners on.

"It's just too bad somebody had to lose that one," said Mason, "especially us. It was an incredible game."

In the second game, Rose Hill bounced ahead quickly, scoring three times against freshman Shayna Duncan, and added five more in the 5th, but the Wildcats kept pecking away, hanging around until the last at bat when they made a bold attempt to split the series when trailing, 8-3. Phillips started the rally with a single and Vanderhoof walked. Both girls moved up on a steals. Duncan grounded out and Phillips scored. Sara Clasen, who went 2-for-3, rapped an

RBI single and so did Sara McKnight. When Clasen and McKnight both scored on passed balls, Rocket skipper Kathy Santo brought in Beran, who immediately fanned the final two hitters.

"We were still a little down in the first inning and they jumped on us but we fought back," said Mason. "We hit so many balls right at people but they made the plays. There was good defense on both sides. I think that's about as good a defense as we can play. It would have been nice to come back and get Beran in that last game but we couldn't get it done even though we out-hit them in both games."

Rose Hill pushed its record to 8-0 with the sweep, and the Cats slipped to 4-4.

The Wildcats will try to get back on the right track today (April 19) when they go to Buhler for two Chisholm Trail League games beginning at 4:30 p.m.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	011 000 1--3 7
Clearwater	001 000 0--1 4

Sara Simpson and Danielle Vanderhoof; Love and Erin Loger.

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	000 000 0--0 4
Clearwater	100 000 x--1 5

Shayna Duncan and Danielle Vanderhoof; McMillen and Erin Loger.

FIRST GAME

Rose Hill	000 000 000 000 00 04--4 9
Mulvane	000 000 000 000 00 00--0 12

Danielle Beran and Katie Hoyt; Sara Simpson, Dani Phillips 17, and Danielle Vanderhoof.

SECOND GAME

Rose Hill	300 050 0--8 8
Mulvane	010 101 4--7 12

Amy Rose, Ashley Demoss 7, Danielle Beran 7, and Katie Hoyt; Shayna Duncan and Danielle Vanderhoof.

Mulvane
Sports