

Drop 2 To Maize

MHS Girls Show They Have Game

If Maize is at the top of the "softball food chain," the Mulvane Wildcats aren't far behind.

That's the way Mulvane High School softball coach Charlie Mason sees things after the Wildcats gave Maize all it wanted before the Eagles nosed the Cats out in both ends of a Chisholm Trail League doubleheader Thursday, April 26, at the Mulvane sports complex. Maize won game No. 1, 5-1, scoring three times in the 6th inning, and the visitors dropped Mulvane, 5-2, in the nightcap.

Maize improved its record to 14-2 overall and 10-0 in the CTL. Mulvane slipped to 7-11 overall and 4-8 in the loop.

"We played some good softball," exclaimed Coach Mason. "We played two real good ball games but Maize is sp good at manufacturing runs. One inning in the second game, they scored four runs on only one hit. Maize is a pretty fair softball team, but I think we're right there next to them."

The Eagles had only four hits off Mulvane's top pitcher, Sara Simpson, and she gave up only two walks, which is slightly more than her average this season. But five errors hurt the cause.

It was 2-0 into the 6th inning and Simpson was still looking strong, but an error, a fielder's choice and two singles and an error plated three runs. "The first game should have been 2-0," said Mason. "We gave them some extra runs with a couple of errors. They're 14-2 this year, and they're that for a reason. They're not like Maize teams of old, over-powering you with hitting. They have good, solid pitching and about as good a defensive team as I've seen Maize have. They put so much pressure on you that you have to be perfect and there were a couple times we weren't."

Offensively, the Cats didn't have a base runner until Katie Rose singled in the 6th inning. Sara Carmichael sacrificed her to second base but that's where she stayed.

Mulvane's only other base runner came in

FIRST GAME

Maize	002 030 0—5 4
Mulvane	000 000 0—0 1
Braley and Marek; Sara Simpson and Danielle Vanderhoof.	

SECOND GAME

Maize	040 010 0—5 6
Mulvane	001 000 1—2 5
Petrich, Love 6, Braley 7, and Dunkelberger; Dani Phillips and Danielle Vanderhoof.	

the 7th when Josalyn Marksberry reached on an error, but the runner never went past first.

The Cats were a little more active with the bats in game No. 2. Dani Phillips had two hits, including an RBI double to drive in Carmichael in the 3rd inning. Danielle Vanderhoof, Kayla Linnebur and Carmichael also had hits.

Mulvane's best threat came in the 7th when Linnebur doubled, Rose walked and Carmichael reached on an error with Linnebur scoring, and there were still no outs. However, the next three batters went down with only one hit to the outfield.

That spoiled a fine effort on the mound by Dani Phillips, who gave up only six hits and walked two. Unfortunately, both walks came in the four-run rally by Maize in the 2nd inning that also was helped along by two errors.

"Our pitching has been outstanding all year," pointed out Mason. "Simpson threw another good ball game and Dani, who hasn't pitched much in the last couple of weeks, also threw a great game except that one inning."

The Wildcat girls have only a doubleheader at home against Augusta left on the regular season schedule. The Cats and Orioles play at 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 7, at the Mulvane sports complex.

"We have a lot of time between Maize and the Augusta games to work on refining things," said Mason. "We're taking a few days off, then we're going to get back into it."

The Wildcats will host eight teams in the Mulvane Class 4A Regional which starts Monday, May 14.