

Maize Too Perfect For Cat Softballers

It had to be perfect and it wasn't.

Mulvane High School softball coach Charlie Mason preaches perfection when the Wildcats play Maize, but perfection is something that the Wildcats can't obtain against the Eagles.

"They're so tough, they put so much pressure on you that it's difficult to play a perfect game but that's what we have to do to beat them," stressed Mason.

No perfect games. No victories. The Cats were in Maize Thursday, April 25, for a Chisholm Trail League doubleheader and the Eagles took both games, 7-1 and 1-0. The two losses dropped the Wildcats to 8-10 for the year and to 2-8 in the CTL.

"We really played great ball, we played as good as we could," added Mason. "There aren't too many people who hit their pitching staff. We hit them about as good as anybody has all year, but in order to beat them, we have to play perfect ball because they have such outstanding pitching."

So do the Wildcats, but on this day, Maize simply out-duelled the Cat duo of Sara Simpson and Shayna Duncan.

The opener behind Simpson was a 0-0 standoff until the 4th inning when the Eagles put together four hits, a walk and a couple of Mulvane errors to take a 4-0 lead. The Cats battled back in the next inning with a run. Simpson started the rally with a walk but was picked off first base. Katie Rose singled and went to second on a wild

pitch. She came home when Duncan drilled a double for Mulvane's only run of the day.

Simpson had to settle for the loss. She's 3-6 for the year. Against Maize, she struck out five and walked two.

The nightcap was a tough one to take. The Wildcats tried but couldn't shake loose for a run even though they had runners in scoring position in the first two innings as well as the 7th. Their best opportunity came in the 7th when Duncan singled to start the inning. She went to second on an error and took 3rd base on a single by Dani Phillips. Catcher Katelyn Carson lined a shot to the second baseman that doubled up Duncan at 3rd.

"Shayna gave up a run in the first and pitched a great ball game the rest of the way," said Mason. "That shot by Carson would have delivered two runs if it had been a foot or two one way or another, but it went directly at their fielder.

"There's just not too much negative you can say about the way we played them," added Mason. "We can stay close to them but one time, I'd like to beat them. Shayna pitched a game but and we made some plays behind her, too. We were solid defensively and so were they. They don't have a strong hitting team and we took the bunt and slap away from them by playing good defense. We executed in both games, which is why we played them right down to the wire."

Duncan finished with a five-hitter and walked only two. Two of Maize's hits, though, came in the first frame and produced the game's only run.

The Mulvane softballers are idle now until their last regular season games of the year Monday, May 6, at Augusta. The doubleheader is slated to begin at 4:30. The Class 5A Regional Mulvane will be playing in will be May 14th at Arkansas City.

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	000 010 0—1 3
Maize	000 313 x—7 12
Sara Simpson and Katelyn Carson; Braley and Merek.	

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	000 000 0—0 4
Maize	100 000 x—1 8
Shayna Duncan and Katelyn Carson; Petrich and Dunkelberger.	