

Play Tough Against Maize

SB Girls Raise The Bar

For 15 innings, Mulvane and Maize put on quite a show Monday night, April 14, at the Mulvane sports complex.

It wasn't until the 16th inning that Maize was able to scratch out a run and end one of the longest softball games in Mulvane High history. The only longer game was a couple years ago when Mulvane and Rose Hill hooked up for a 17-inning marathon.

The Eagles swept the Wildcats in two games Monday night, but you won't find Coach Charlie Mason weeping about it in the corner. The games just galvanized his feeling that this is a special group.

"Maize is one of the best teams in the State of Kansas and to play them like we did, it makes me pretty proud," said Mason. "We did everything we needed to do to win

that second game except push one across. Shayna (Duncan) pitched her heart out. We played 23 innings against Maize and Shayna and Dani Phillips didn't walk a batter. It was just a tough, tough loss. Anytime you go 16 innings and lose, it's tough."

The Eagles came out swinging in the opener against Phillips and came away with a 7-1 victory. The nightcap turned out to be a 4-3 Maize victory in 16 innings.

"We were right there in the first game but had a couple of defensive lapses and it was a mistake that cost us in the second game, too," noted Mason. "They are so darn good you can't make mistakes when you play them."

The Eagles scored two in the first inning, then put the game away with four

more in the sixth. Meanwhile, Mulvane's four hits led to only one run. Stephanie Tatum reached on an error to start the 6th. She moved up a base on a ground out and scored when Phillips lined a base hit, one of two she had in the game.

Game No. 2 was a gem. Mulvane scored single runs in the 1st and 3rd and Duncan was pitching well but the Eagles finally broke through with three runs in the 4th to take a 3-2 lead.

The Cats knotted the score at 3s in the 5th inning when Abby Sorensen singled with one out. She moved up on a ground out, and stole 3rd before trotting home when Phillips ripped a single to left.

That was it until the fateful 16th inning although had the Cats a double by Katelyn Carson in the 9th and a single by Carson in the 12th. Both opportunities fizzled, however.

Finally, the Eagles won it when Mulvane made an error that gave the leadoff hitter life at first base and moments later, the run crossed the plate to break the tie.

The run spoiled a three-hit game by Sorensen and a two-hit game by Carson. Duncan also had two RBIs.

"If anything, I'm encouraged," said Mason. "We battled Maize all the way, we got great pitching and we played pretty good softball overall. We got beat but I think that will help us on down the road. If we play like that the rest of the year, we're not going to be touched too often."

The Mulvane junior varsity knocked off a three win week. They split with Maize, winning by a 4-2 count in the first game and losing, 12-5, in the nightcap. Against Andover Thursday, the Cats were way too much for the Trojans and swept them, 11-0 and 31-0.

The Cat girls took care of business Thursday, April 10, when Andover came knocking on the sports complex door. Mason's troops mowed the Trojans down in both games, 6-0 and 16-3, to hike their record to 6-2 for the year.

In fact, Mason said the Wildcats played the two games with only one error, and the MHS bats and solid pitching from Phillips and Duncan did the rest of the damage.

Mulvane pulled away quickly in each game behind big innings. In game No. 1, the Wildcats broke the game open with four runs in the 3rd inning to take a 5-0 lead that Phillips protected with a fine three-hit job in her 2nd appearance since a no-hitter a week

FIRST GAME

Maize	200 104 0-7 9
Mulvane	000 001 0-1 4
Bralely and Dunkelberger; Dani Phillips and Katelyn Carson	

SECOND GAME

Maize	000 120 000 000 1-4 7
Mulvane	101 010 000 000 000 0-3 7
Petrich, Braley 11, and Dunkelberger; Shayna Duncan and Katelyn Carson	

FIRST GAME

Andover	000 000 0-0 3
Mulvane	014 100 x-6 8
Hanson and Pickard, Dani Phillips, Stephanie Tatum 7, and Katelyn Carson	

SECOND GAME

Andover	000 12-3 4
Mulvane	284 2x-16 11
Mendoza and Boren; Shayna Duncan, Stephanie Tatum 5, and Katelyn Carson, Sara Clasen 3	
HR Burns (A)	

Junior Varsity Results

FIRST GAME

Maize	020 00-2 6
Mulvane	110 2x-4 6
Mulvane battery Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes	

SECOND GAME

Maize	221 61-12 23
Mulvane	001 31-5 10
Mulvane battery Christy Bartley and Stephanie Hughes	

FIRST GAME

Andover	000 0-0 1
Mulvane	605 x-11 14
Mulvane battery Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes	

SECOND GAME

Andover	000-0 1
Mulvane	101 21x-31 24
Mulvane battery Christy Bartley and Amy Phillips	

earlier against Andale.

Sorensen started the rally with a single and went to second on an error. Doerfer reached base on an error and Phillips slashed a single for an RBI. Linnebur hit a single just after Phillips scored on a wild pitch, and Duncan brought in another run with a ground out before Linnebur scored on an error.

Phillips struck out only two but didn't walk a batter before giving way to Stephanie Tatum in the final inning.

The Wildcats banged the bats in the nightcap. Eleven hits backed up Duncan's two-hitter that saw Tatum finish the last inning giving up two more hits.

An eight-run 2nd inning put the game away early for the Cats and featured a two RBI triple by Linnebur and RBI hits by Doerfer and Tatum plus a bases-loaded walk to Sorensen for another run.

Four Cats had two hits each—Doerfer, Phillips, Duncan and Tatum.



Sara McKnight (31) takes a cut with Kayla Linnebur at 3rd base waiting to score