

Getting Hot At Right Time

It was a week to remember, and we're not talking about the Mulvane High School Jr.-Sr. Prom.

The MHS softball Wildcats put the finishing touches on a tremendous regular season, first by sweeping two games from highly-touted Valley Center, then the Cats ended the run by battering Wellington in two games to move into a tie for 2nd place in the difficult Chisholm Trail League Division I standings right behind Maize.

What's more, the Wildcats, who were playing at the Mulvane sports complex in both those series, worked up some great momentum as they take aim at a trip to the Class 4A State.

Guess you could call it a trip but the 4A State Softball Tournament is once again at the Mulvane sports complex May 30-31. And guess where the 4A Regional Tournament is? Ah! There's nothing like home cooking. The sports complex will be home to the regionals beginning Tuesday, May 20, with four first round games, and the winners advance to the semifinals to be played Thursday, May 22.

Yes, it was a week to remember for Coach Charlie Mason and his Wildcats, who finished the regular season at 14-6. Mulvane struck early and pulled away Monday, May 12, in the opener against Wellington in an 8-1 game. In the nightcap, the Cats rolled to a 7-2 victory.

"We played pretty good softball in that first game," agreed Mason. "We got out on them quickly and just handed the ball to Shayna (Duncan). She is on some kind of a roll. She had another great ball game for us and we had the hitting to put them away. Wellington always hits it hard against us but Shayna kept them bottled up for the most part. Our defense also was again excellent. We had a couple of miscues but they didn't hurt us."

The Cats plunged into the first inning, scoring four times to take a 4-0 lead. Abby Sorensen socked a single, Melissa Doerfer doubled, Dani Phillips singled for a run and Duncan ripped a double for two more runs, then scored when Sara Clasen singled.

That was more than enough working room for Duncan, who raised her record to 7-3 by throwing a four-hitter with no walks issued.

Three more in the 4th inning made it mostly official since Duncan was still pitching zeroes at the Crusaders. Wellington finally scored with the help of an error in the last inning.

Phillips finished with three hits, two runs scored and two RBIs. Kayla Linnebur had a hit and two RBIs in the 4th inning uprising. Doerfer went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and Stephanie Tatum was 1-for-3 with one run scored.

The Wildcat bats didn't cool down in game No. 2, either. They banged out 10 more hits and started things in the first inning again. Doerfer singled, stole second and scored when Linnebur lined a single.

After making it 2-0 in the 2nd, Mulvane scored a pair in the 3rd. The uprising was started with two-outs when Katelyn Carson was hit by a pitch. Pinch-runner Whitney Phillips stole second and scored when Sara

Clasen lashed a single to left. Clasen advanced to second when the leftfielder bobbled the ball and scored moments later when Tatum blooped a single over the infield.

That gave senior pitcher Dani Phillips plenty of room to maneuver. She gave up only five hits and didn't walk a batter before giving way to Tatum, who finished up a seven-hit game that once again saw no walks given up by Mulvane staffers.

Doerfer, Duncan and Clasen finished the game with two hits each.

Dani Phillips hiked her record to 7-3 also. "She pitched a fine game," said Coach Mason. "We wanted to give Stephanie (Tatum) some work so we brought her in to finish."

Two games Thursday, May 8, at home against Valley Center gave the Wildcats plenty of momentum plus a big boost of confidence. After all, it's been a while since Mulvane has even split with the Hornets let alone take both ends of a doubleheader.

But that's what they did. It wasn't easy. The two teams battled through 13 innings of

goose eggs before the Wildcats finally broke through in the bottom of the 14th. The senior Doerfer started the winning rally by singling with one out. She went to 2nd on an error and scored when Linnebur lined a two-out single in the gap, ending the game.

It was another shining moment for Duncan, the junior righthander who mowed through the highly-ranked Hornets with a three-hitter. She also struck out seven.

"She had them on their heels the whole game," said Mason. "We beat one of the top teams in the state and one of the top pitchers in the state."

Mulvane came out swinging in the nightcap against VC, scoring four times in the 1st inning. Sorensen walked, Doerfer singled and Dani Phillips walked loading the sacks for Linnebur, who pounded a single that scored two. A 3rd runner scored on an error and Carson's single made it a 4-0 game quickly.

Phillips was on her game, too, as she checked the Hornets on nine hits. Sorensen, Doerfer and Phillips scored two runs apiece and Doerfer and Duncan split four of the nine hits the Cats got.

The Wildcat jayvee softballers concluded their most successful season ever as they ambushed Wellington in both games, 8-2 and 6-3. That left the JV Cats with a 16-4 record.



Junior Shayna Duncan bringing some heat in Wellington victory

Mulvane Class 4A Regional Softball Pairings

All Games Held At Mulvane Sports Complex
TUESDAY, MAY 20

Game 1 -- No. 1 seeded Caney Valley (19-1) vs. No. 8 Chaparral (6-12), field No. 2, 5 p.m.

Game 2 -- No. 2 Clearwater (18-2) vs. No. 7 Andover Central (7-13), field No. 3, 5

Game 3 -- No. 4 Douglass (13-7) vs. No. 5 Rose Hill (8-10), field No. 2, 7

Game 4 -- No. 3 Mulvane (14-6) vs. No. 6 Wellington (8-14), field No. 3, 7

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Game 5 (Semifinals)--winners of games 1 and 3, field No. 2, 4 p.m.

Game 6 (Semifinals)--winners of games 2 and 4, 5-45

Game 7 (Championship)--winners of games 5 and 6, 7-30

FIRST GAME

Wellington 000 000 1 -1 4
Mulvane 400 301 x-8 10

Liz Stocking and Keith, Shayna Duncan and Katelyn Carson

SECOND GAME

Wellington 001 001 0 -2 7
Mulvane 112 012 x-7 10

Zogleman and Lynch, Dani Phillips, Stephanie Tatum 6, and Katelyn Carson

FIRST GAME

Valley Center 000 000 000 000 -0 3
Mulvane 000 000 000 000 01-1 6

Joanne Fluker and Moody, Shayna Duncan and Katelyn Carson

SECOND GAME

Valley Center 000 202 0-4 9
Mulvane 400 310 x-8 9

Davis and Dawn Truman; Dani Phillips and Katelyn Carson