

Cat Bats Turn To Dust

The Mulvane softballers are all dressed up with nowhere to go.

Wellington saw to that. The Crusaders upended the No. 3 seeded Wildcats with a stunning display of hitting Tuesday evening, May 20, in the opening round of the Mulvane Class 4A Regional held at the Mulvane sports complex.

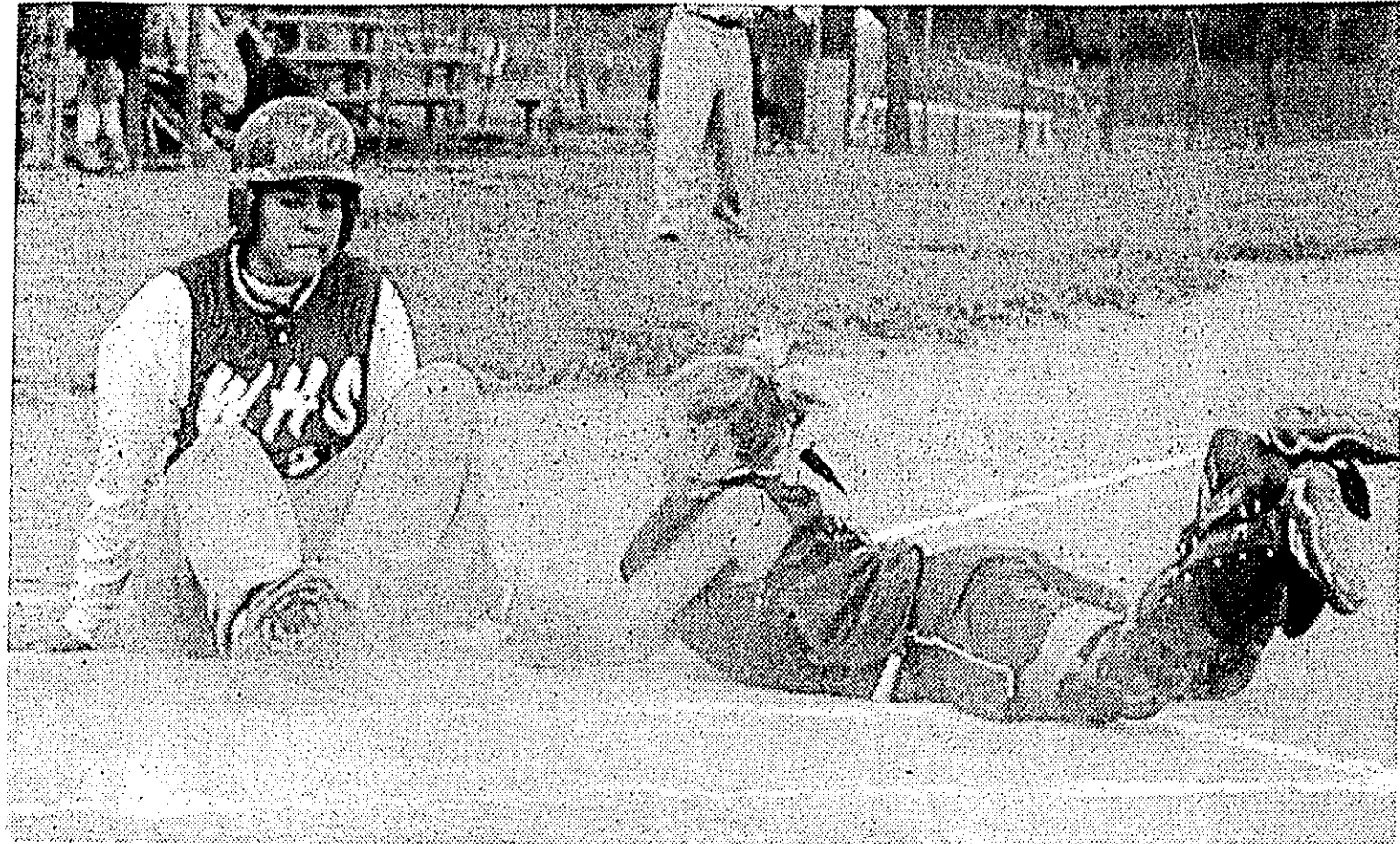
Mulvane came into the game with a 14-6 mark, having decked the Crusaders in two games just a week ago, but Wellington torched Mulvane's State hopes with a 7-1 thumping on home turf.

A week earlier, junior pitcher Shayna Duncan had the Crusaders eating out of her hand, but Tuesday night, they ate her up, banging out seven hits to knock her out after three innings. She even walked a batter, something she doesn't do often. It just happened to force in a run this time.

"We just picked the worst time to have one of our poorer games," admitted Mulvane Coach Charlie Mason. "I thought we were fired up for this game, but they had first bats and came out hitting the ball hard in the very first inning. We were never in it from there. They had nothing to lose and they played that way. We had everything to lose and we played that way."

The Crusaders scored three runs before the popcorn was ready in the concession stand. And the visitors added three more. It was "shock treatment" that had the Cats reeling.

"I guess that's why they play the game," said Mason. "We beat them pretty handily last week. The same pitcher. But they



Mulvane catcher Katelyn Carson dives to take a Crusader at the plate but the tag came too late to save an upset loss in regionals

deserved to win this game. They hit the ball and we didn't.

"We didn't hit the ball at all. When 14 of your 21 outs are fly balls, you just not attacking the ball. You're defensive up there at the plate, and that's exactly how we played."

The only solid stroker the Cats had was

junior Sara McKnight, who bagged two doubles and a single. Mulvane's only other hits were a double by Abby Sorensen and a singles by seniors Dani Phillips and Kayla Linnebur.

"Sara McKnight hit the heck out of the ball but we couldn't put three or four hits together to get back in the ball game and they did," said Mason. "Dani came in for Shayna and did a real good job the last five innings but by that time, the game was settled. We just didn't hit the ball and they did."

Mulvane even had a shutout going until the last inning. If that would have stood, it would have been the first time this season

that the Wildcats had failed to score a run.

They eventually broke through in the 7th inning when McKnight cranked a double and Sorensen doubled for the RBI.

Mulvane Class 4A Regional Softball Tournament

FIRST ROUND

Wellington	330 100 0--7 11
Mulvane	000 000 1--1 6
Liz Stocking and Manda Lynch, Shayna Duncan, Dani Phillips 3, and Katelyn Carson	

Clearwater 4, Andover Central 0
Rose Hill 11, Douglass 0
Caney Valley 6, Chaparral 1