

# Air Up Here Is Rare!

## 'Charge' Mode For Cats

The air is rare up there where the Mulvane High School softball girls are floating these days. In fact, they've never been 6-0 to start the season but that was before Monday night, April 5, when the Wildcat softballers inched past Augusta for a sweep.

The Cats showed the right amount of pitching, defense and hitting to take both ends of a Chisholm Trail League double header against the Orioles at the Mulvane sports complex. Mulvane won the opener, 3-1, and held on in the nightcap, 3-2, with

senior pitcher Shayna Duncan playing a major role in both victories.

The Wildcats marched out to a 6-0 record and 4-0 at the top of the CTE Division I standings. "We haven't started off 6-0 ever I think," said Mason. "We started with Valley Center in previous years and that kind of put a quick damper on things, so this is new territory. We just play hard and don't beat ourselves."

The Cats had Duncan going in game No. 1 and she continued to show her mastery, finishing with a four hitter and walking only one. "Shayna was never in trouble other than the solo home run," said Coach Mason. "That thing was gone off the bat. Our right fielder just turned and watched it go over the fence. She really had another good night, though. She pitched well, she had an RBI and she had a big fan and two RBIs in the second game."

It didn't hurt to have your defense wrapping it up another notch, either. The Cat turned doubleplays in the 3rd, 6th and 7th for Duncan.

Mason's Cats led behind before taking charge. After the Orioles scored in the fourth inning, Mulvane responded with two runs when Amy Phillips and Duncan reached on an error with no outs. Ashley McKenzie reached on another error and Phillips scored. Duncan came in to take the 2-1 lead when Sara McKnight tapped a single.

The Wildcats made it 3-1 in the 5th. Abby Sotensen singled and stole second. Tatum beat out a hit and Duncan came through with an RBI single for a cushion. In a run she ended up not needing as she mowed Augusta down the final three innings, facing only 10 batters.

In the nightcap, Tatum pitched another outstanding game but it lasted only six innings and Duncan had to save the day with the bases jammed and one out. The senior Tatum walked two and scattered eight hits but left with a 3-2 lead. Duncan finished up with the last two outs to earn a save.

Mulvane quickly broke out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Tatum singled, stole second and scored when Duncan singled. Duncan finished with a 2-for-3 evening with two RBIs and one run scored, so she was in the middle of everything.

The Cats regained the lead in the 6th with two runs for a 3-1 edge. Amy Phillips walked and scored when Duncan drove it down the leftfield line for a triple. Duncan scored when catcher Katelyn Carson grounded to short.

"Augusta is a really good hitting team and well-disciplined, they made us work," said Mason. "We got a leg up on them that may come in handy later on." The Cats will play in the 4A Regional, which will be at Augusta this year.

The Wildcats ran their record to 4-0 Thursday, April 1, when they took both ends of a home doubleheader against Andale. The Cats won, 8-0 and 4-1.

It was a similar formula—Duncan and Tatum pitching well, timely hitting and extremely solid glove work. Mulvane had only one error in the opener and three in the 2nd game.

Duncan retired 13 straight batters before issuing her only single of the game in the opener against the Indians. She finished with nine strikeouts and ran her "walk-less" streak to 14 innings against Andale.

Meanwhile, the MHS hitters were on target with 10 hits. Tara Roberts knocked in three runs with a bases-loaded triple in Mulvane's big six-run 5th that broke the game up. Tatum went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and two RBIs. Duncan went 2-for-3 and McKenzie went 1-for-3 with one run scored.

Tatum had things well in hand in the second game against the Indians, giving up only one hit and striking out nine batters. She also didn't walk anyone.

Whitney Phillips went 1-for-3 with one run scored. Tatum had two hits to help her own cause and McKnight was 1-for-2 with two runs scored.



### FIRST GAME

Augusta 0001000 1-3  
 Mulvane 000210X 3-7  
 Spalding and James Farmer, Stephanie Duncan and Katelyn Carson  
 Hit: James Farmer (X)

### SECOND GAME

Augusta 0001001 2-8  
 Mulvane 000021X 3-5  
 Smith and James Farmer, Stephanie Tatum, Shayna Duncan and Katelyn Carson

### FIRST GAME

Andale 0000000 0-1  
 Mulvane 200000X 8-10  
 DeLo and Herb, Shayna Duncan and Katelyn Carson

### SECOND GAME

Andale 0000001 1-1  
 Mulvane 010300 2-7  
 Sotensen and Herb, Stephanie Tatum and Katelyn Carson

## Regional Softball Assignments

### GAMES MAY 17-21

Augusta Class 4A Regional—Mulvane, Circle, Clearwater, Rose Hill, Wellington, Augusta, El Dorado, Douglas