

One Call Makes Big Difference

Interference or obstruction. One call made the difference between a series sweep and a split Monday night, April 26, when the Mulvane High School softball girls got together at the Mulvane sports complex with Rose Hill.

The Wildcats won the opener, 3-1, behind a stellar pitching effort by Shayna Duncan, then lost the nightcap, 4-3, with an umpire's call making the difference.

The Cats were ahead, 3-1, behind senior Stephanie Tatum when the Rockets spotted an opportunity in the top of the 7th inning and made the most of it to score three runs to win.

Tatum walked the lead-off batter and that was the opportunity. Coach Charlie Mason brought in Duncan, who was greeted by three hits, the last up the middle with runners on 2nd and 3rd. Shortstop Amy Phillips went to her left to try to flag down the hit and brushed the RH runner. Centerfielder Whitney Phillips gunned down that runner at the plate with a 3-3 game and the Wildcats coming in for their last at bat.

However the field umpire ruled it was obstruction and awarded the runner home plate to send the Rockets into the lead. Mulvane went down one-two-three in the bottom of the 7th inning and it was a split.

"We find all kinds of ways to end games with those people (RH)," said Mason. "We've had some real doozies with them and this was one of them. But we never should have been in the position to let an umpire decide it."

Until that inning, Tatum was marching along although she issued four earlier walks, too. Abby Sorensen went 2-for-2 with two runs scored and Duncan had two hits and knocked in two runs. Amy Phillips also had an RBI.

In game No. 1, Duncan mowed the Rockets down, allowing only four hits and no walks. The Cats punched in two runs in the 4th when Duncan reached on an error, Ashley McKenzie drilled a single and both scored when senior Sara McKnight singled. Katelyn Carson singled and courtesy runner Amanda Hagerman scored in the 6th inning for the Cats.

The Wildcats got back on track with a two-game sweep of Andover Central Thursday, April 22, with a couple of 11-0 blowouts at the Mulvane sports complex. Those games "righted the ship" that had been listing after two 1-0 losses to Maize and two poor showings in losses to Goddard.

"We got things back together," said Coach Mason. "We played good defense, my pitchers did their jobs and we did a little better job of hitting the ball. Both the Central games were good games for us because we got up on them quickly and it gave us a chance to look at some people. The girls also got some good swings on their pitching staff."

The Cats, who started the year with eight consecutive victories, snapped out of the doldrums with a five-run first inning against the

FIRST GAME

Rose Hill	000 000 1--1 4
Mulvane	000 201 x--3 11
Jenny Hoyt, Nicole Dunphy 6, and Katie Hoyt Shayna Duncan and Katelyn Carson	

SECOND GAME

Rose Hill	000 001 1--4 8
Mulvane	100 020 0--3 4
Nicole Dunphy, Amanda Venn 5 and Katie Hoyt Stephanie Tatum, Shayna Duncan 7, and Katelyn Carson	

FIRST GAME

Andover Central	000 00--0 3
Mulvane	500 24--11 9
Rupert and Huelskamp, Shayna Duncan and Katelyn Carson	

SECOND GAME

Andover Central	000 00--0 3
Mulvane	425 0x--11 13
Whitehead and Huelskamp, Stephanie Tatum and Katelyn Carson	

Junior Varsity Results

FIRST GAME

Rose Hill	010 00--1 5
Mulvane	130 0x--4 4
Mulvane battery: Christy Hartley and Stephanie Hughes	

SECOND GAME

Rose Hill	200 10--3 10
Mulvane	122 1x--6 11
Mulvane battery: Whitney Sullivan and Stephanie Hughes	

FIRST GAME

Andover Central	100 10--2 4
Mulvane	452 2x--13 10
Mulvane battery: Christy Hartley and Stephanie Hughes	

SECOND GAME

Andover Central	100 11--3 7
Mulvane	701 5x--13 3
Mulvane battery: Whitney Sullivan and Amber Smith	

Jaguars in the opener. Abby Sorensen singled, Stephanie Tatum and Amy Phillips both walked, and all three came home on Shayna Duncan's three-run single. After Katelyn Carson walked, Sara McKnight reached on an error when she tried to bunt Carson over. Both girls scored, the last run coming in on Ashley McKenzie's base knock.

Duncan also was tough on the mound, throwing a three-hit shutout at Central and walking zero. She finished with a 3-for-3 night at the plate. Sorensen and Tatum both scored three times and Amy Phillips had one hit and one RBI.

Tatum was equal to the task in game No. 2, pitching a three-hit shutout with eight strikeouts. She also didn't walk a batter.

The Cat bats didn't take long to heat up, either, scoring all 11 runs in the first three innings. Tatum started the four-run 1st inning with a single and Devin Redford walked. Duncan plated a run with a single and Carson smashed a double that scored two more runs. Amy Phillips finished the rally with a single to score pinch-runner Amanda Hagerman.

Carson finished with three RBIs and went 2-for-2. Redford went 2-for-2 with two runs scored and two RBIs and Tatum went 3-for-4 with three runs scored and three RBIs. Sara McKnight was 1-for-2 with one run scored and Whitney Phillips went 1-for-3 with one run.

The Wildcats will get back on the road next week, having about a 10-day break. They will go to Valley Center for two games Thursday, May 6. Games start at 4:30 p.m.