

# Hitting Makes SB Life Easier

In softball, hitting is a team effort. When everyone hits, winning ball games becomes much easier.

Everybody got involved in the offense in Mulvane's doubleheader at Andover Monday, April 11, leading the Lady Cats' second straight sweep, 9-3 and 8-5. Mulvane improved to 4-2 on the season.

"Hitting is contagious," said Wildcat head coach Charlie Mason. "Once a couple of hitters get going, everybody else wants to join in. That's pretty much how it's working for us so far. We know we need to score runs early and often and play sharp defense to back up our young pitching staff. Ever since our first game, that's exactly what we've been doing."

Mulvane used a seven-run fifth inning to take control of the opener. The inning was highlighted by an RBI single by Jordan Cox and RBI doubles by Abby Sorensen and Devyn Redford. They were also helped out by three Trojan errors. Cox, Sorensen, and Redford each had two hits in the game. "It always helps when you can take advantage of opponents' mistakes," said Mason. "The important thing was that we didn't give them any help like that."

In the second game, Mulvane had a five-run fourth. Whitney Phillips had an RBI single, Jessica Helwi added a two-run double, and

## FIRST GAME

Mulvane	100 070 1 - 9 8 1
Andover	001 020 0 - 3 6 6
Whitney Sullivan and Stephanie Hughes, Mendoza, Monroe S. and Pickard	

## SECOND GAME

Mulvane	102 500 0 - 8 10 1
Andover	101 011 1 - 5 8 2
Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes, Monroe Borg 4. and Pickard	

## Junior Varsity

### FIRST GAME

Mulvane	006 61 - 13 3
Andover	000 00 - 0 3
Christy Hartley and Amber Smith	

### SECOND GAME

Mulvane	011 25 - 9 5
Andover	122 00 - 5 7
Lachelle Branine and Amber Smith	

Sorensen had an RBI single. Helwi, who was just a home run shy of a cycle, went 3-for-4 with two runs scored and three RBI. Sorensen and Tara Roberts each added two hits.

"That's why we had Jessica batting lead-off," said Mason. "She sets the table for us, and she's really seeing the ball well right now. We need to be more consistent at the plate up and down the lineup, but I think we're getting there."

Mulvane was charged with only one error in each game, and the 'Cats' two starting pitchers both pitched complete-game victories: In the opener, Whitney Sullivan gave up just one earned run on six hits, striking out a season-high 12 while walking none. In the second game, Phillips allowed four earned runs on eight hits, striking out four and walking three.

"Our pitchers are starting to settle in," said Mason. "We know we still have to field and hit behind them, but they're both stepping up right now. They're making the opposing hitters put the ball in play. Also, Stephanie Hughes has really stepped in behind the plate, and she's really handling the pitchers well. The other important thing right now is that we're all healthy for the first time this season."

The Wildcat junior varsity improved to 6-0 on the season with a sweep at Andover, 13-3 and 9-5. The 'Cats scored six runs each in the third and fourth innings of the opener. Chelsea Vaughn scored three times while Lexi Linnebur, Chandler Peterson, and Lachelle Branine each scored twice. Mulvane rallied for five runs in the fifth inning of the nightcap to gain the sweep.

Next up for the Lady Cats will be a home doubleheader against Circle Monday April 18, starting at 4:30 p.m.