

# Cats Turn Attention To League

The Mulvane High School softball team has been picking up steam for some time, and they don't intend to slow down now.

The Wildcats picked up another impressive sweep in their home finale against Andale Monday, May 1, blowing past the Indians by scores of 4-2 and 10-2. Mulvane has won 11 of their last 12 games to improve to 13-3.

"Those were a couple of big wins for us," said Wildcat head coach Charles Mason. "We're working our way toward regionals, and we're hoping to pick up the top seed. Andale was probably the fastest team we've played this year. The best thing you can do is just keep them off the bases. Whitney Phillips pitched two solid games, and we swung the bats very well. Our defense was a little shaky in the second game, but fortunately, it didn't end up hurting us."

In the first game, Lisa Cillessen's single drove in Jordan Cox in the second inning for a 1-0 lead. Tara Roberts' RBI single in the fourth made it 2-0, but Andale rallied with two runs in the sixth to tie the game. In the bottom of the frame, with one on and one out, Roberts unloaded a two-run home run, the biggest of Mulvane's 14 hits. Mulvane's offensive effort was very balanced, with six different 'Cats getting two hits. Phillips allowed two runs on three hits with 11 strikeouts.

In the second game, Mulvane scored in every inning, including three runs each in the third and fifth. Courtney Maples was 3-for-4 with two runs scored, and the 'Cats got two hits each from Amy Phillips, Kourtney Bell, Stephanie Hughes, Amanda Hagerman, and Roberts, who also drove in two more runs. The 'Cats pounded out another 14 hits. Phillips allowed two runs on four hits with one walk and 11 more strikeouts. Defensively, the nightcap was pretty ugly; the Wildcats had four errors while Andale committed three.

The Wildcats split a key AVCTL Division III doubleheader with Augusta at Mulvane Thursday, April 27. It may have been a Mulvane sweep if not for one pitch.

That pitch was slammed over the fence for a three-run homer by Augusta's Ashley Spalding in the sixth inning, giving the Orioles a 3-1 win in the opener. Mulvane won the nightcap, 2-1, to bring their league record

## FIRST GAME

Andale	000 002 0—2 3 0
Mulvane	010 102 x—4 14 1

Fiber and C. Eck; Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes.

HR—Tara Roberts (M).

## SECOND GAME

Andale	011 000 0—2 4 3
Mulvane	113 131 x—10 14 4

Schmelzer and C. Eck; Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes.

## FIRST GAME

Augusta	000 003 0—3 3 1
Mulvane	000 100 0—1 4 1

Spalding and Spears; Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes.

HR—Spalding (A).

## SECOND GAME

Augusta	000 000 1—1 2 0
Mulvane	020 000 x—2 4 0

Spalding and Spears; Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes.

HR—Spalding (A); Kourtney Bell (M).

to 6-2. The top three teams in the league (Mulvane, Augusta, and Rose Hill) have all split with each other, making a three-way split for the league title a good possibility.

"If not for that home run, we may be in the driver's seat right now," said Mason. "That's how the game goes sometimes, though. It was important for us to bounce back and get the split, not just for the league, but for our regional seeding."

Mulvane's only run in the opener came in the fourth, when Amy Phillips walked and scored on a double by Whitney Phillips, who had two of Mulvane's four hits in the game. That held up until Spalding's homer in the sixth. Otherwise, Phillips shut the Orioles down, allowing three runs on three hits, walking three and striking out 11.

In the second game, Mulvane scored twice in the second. Kourtney Bell led off with her third homer of the season. One out later, Hughes singled, and courtesy runner Maddie Wise scored on a double by Roberts. Another Spalding homer in the seventh gave the 'Cats a momentary scare, but Phillips shut the door, retiring the last three batters. Phillips allowed just one run on two hits, walking two and striking out five.

The Wildcats will try to clinch at least a share of the league title when they play at El Dorado today (May 4), starting at 4:30 p.m. The 'Cats will finish their regular season at Clearwater Monday, May 8, also at 4:30 p.m.