

# It's An Even Year Thing--STATE!

It's a well-known fact that Mulvane's softball team makes state tournament appearances in even-numbered years.

## Class 4A Regional At Buhler CHAMPIONSHIP

Andale 800 000 0—0  
Mulvane 010 001 1—2  
Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes.

## SEMIFINALS

Nickerson 100 000 0—1  
Mulvane 120 470 1—10  
Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes.

## FIRST ROUND

Belle Plaine 000 100 0—1  
Mulvane 203 020 1—4  
Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes.  
HR—Whitney Phillips (M).

The Wildcats made sure that trend continued by sweeping through the Buhler Class 4A Regional Tournament with three wins in two days to earn a trip to Salina. The opening round of the Class 4A State Softball Championship will be played Friday, May 26, at Bill Burk Complex in Salina. The semifinals and championship games will be played Saturday, May 27.

The top-seeded 'Cats finished their regional run in the final Tuesday night, May 16, with a 2-0 win over No. 2 seeded Andale at Buhler. Mulvane improved their record to 20-3, and they have won 18 of their last 19 games going into state. It's the fourth state appearance in the program's history, previously having qual-

ified in 1996, 1998, and 2004.

"It's always good to get back to state," said head coach Charles Mason. "At times, we struggled to score runs, but the way our defense played, and as strong as our pitching was, we didn't need to score too many. Andale's a very tough opponent. We knew we'd have to be at our best to beat them, and we were."

Mulvane's first run came in the second inning. With runners at first and third, Kourtney Bell scored on a successful double steal for a 1-0 lead. It stayed that way until the sixth, when Tara Roberts provided some insurance with an RBI double that

scored Amanda Hagerman. The Wildcat defense and pitching ace Whitney Phillips took care of the rest. Over 21 regional innings, Phillips allowed a total of two runs.

Earlier Tuesday in the semifinals, Mulvane dispatched #5 seed Nickerson, 10-1. The Panthers had beaten Clearwater in 10 innings the previous day in the first round, and they scored a run in the first for a quick lead, but the 'Cats dominated the rest of the game.

In their first-round game Monday, May 15, the Wildcats took down #8 seed Belle Plaine, 6-1. Mulvane struggled offensively at times, but Phillips kept the Dragons' bats

quiet. Phillips also had Mulvane's biggest offensive highlight, slamming the Wildcats' only home run of the regional.

The Wildcats finished their regular season by sweeping a pair of run-rule games, 17-0 and 16-0, at El Dorado Friday, May 12. The 'Cats finished 8-2 in AVCTL Division III, tying for the league title with Rose Hill and Augusta. Those three teams all split with each other during the regular season.

The Wildcats brought the first game to an early end with a 14-run explosion in the fourth inning. Mulvane finished with 17 runs on 11 hits and six El Dorado errors. The second game was similarly quick, with Mulvane scoring in all five innings, finishing with 16 runs on 16 hits and four El Dorado errors.

Pitcher Whitney Phillips gave up just one hit over the seven innings she pitched in both games. The second game was a combined no-hitter. Phillips pitched the first three innings, Courtney Maples pitched the fourth, and Christy Hartley pitched the fifth.

## Regular Season FIRST GAME

Mulvane 030 (14)—17 11 0  
El Dorado 000 0—0 1 6  
Whitney Phillips and Stephanie Hughes, Bayard and Carrier.

## SECOND GAME

Mulvane 415 33—16 16 2  
El Dorado 000 00—0 0 4  
Whitney Phillips, Courtney Maples 4, Christy Hartley 3, and Stephanie Hughes; Moon-Gortland and Keith, Medford 3.

MULVANE