

# Pitchers Tame Wellington--Twice!

There's nothing like a pair of shutouts to wipe away the bad taste in your mouth.

Wellington left a fresh taste in Mulvane High School softball coach Charlie Mason's mouth Monday, April 16, as Mason's Wildcat girls sent the Crusaders packing with no runs in a doubleheader sweep at the Mulvane sports complex. The Cats won game No. 1, 1-0, then stopped Wellington, 6-0, in the nightcap.

"These were two good wins," said Mason. "Anytime you shut out Wellington it's good. They have always been free swingers and have always been able to hit the ball. We not only shut them out, but we gave them only three hits."

The subjects of Mason's pride were first-game pitcher Taylor Parsons and senior Whitney Sullivan in the nightcap. Parsons struck out 11 and gave up only two singles as she rebounded nicely from her first loss of the season. Sullivan yielded only a 4th inning single and walked only one.

The Cats, improving their record to 6-3 for the season, scored the only run Parsons needed in the 3rd inning. Chelsea Vaughn slapped a double, Maddie Wise bunted her to 3rd base and Jackie Schwemmer belted a sacrifice fly to leftfield.

"Our defense was pretty outstanding, too," pointed out Mason. "They hit right to our defenders and they made the plays."

The second game was a replay, almost. While Sullivan was mowing down the Crusaders, Lexi Linnebur was going 3-for-3 with one RBI, Jordan Cox was going 1-for-3 with two RBIs, Kourtney Bell was going 2-for-4 with three RBIs, Stephanie Wilson was going 2-for-3 and Sullivan was going 2-for-4 with two runs scored.

"We pulled away by getting our offense going with some timely hitting and our pitch-

**FIRST GAME**  
Wellington 000 000 0-0 2  
Mulvane 001 000 8-1 4  
Hannah Shock and Madison Hughes; Taylor Parsons and Jordan Cox.

**SECOND GAME**  
Wellington 000 000 0-0 1  
Mulvane 004 002 8-6 10  
Rebecca Ryherd and Madison Hughes; Whitney Sullivan and Stephanie Wilson, Amber Smith 7.

**FIRST GAME**  
Mulvane 010 102 9-4 6  
Augusta 004 100 8-5 10  
Taylor Parsons, Jackie Schwemmer 6, and Jordan Cox; Powell and Sears.

**SECOND GAME**  
Mulvane 000 100 1-2 10  
Augusta 100 323 8-9 9  
Whitney Sullivan, Jackie Schwemmer 5, and Stephanie Wilson; Mize and Sears.  
HR--Farmer, Sears (A).

ing and defense did the rest," noted Mason.

The senior Bell did much of the damage as the Cats broke into the scoring column with a four-run 3rd inning. After one out, Wilson reached on an error, Sullivan banged out a single and Cox walked. Bell followed by blasting one off the fence in leftfield, scoring all three runners. Linnebur singled Bell to the plate.

It was a different story at Augusta last week. There's a reason Augusta's No. 1 in the most recent state-wide softball rankings in Class 4A, and Thursday, April 12, the Mulvane Wildcats found out why.

The Cats hung right with the Orioles for a game and a half but Augusta ended up by taking both ends of a league doubleheader in Augusta. The scores were 5-4 in the opener and 9-2, in the 2nd game.

"They aren't No. 1 for nothing, they have a lot of returning players and some good transfers," explained MHS Coach Charlie Mason. "We played right with them for all of the first game and half of the second

game. They are good enough and experienced enough to take advantage of the mistakes you made and that was one of the difference in the ball games.

"I really felt good about playing with them but we didn't bunch up our kids to score like they did and that was the second difference in the game. We hit the ball hard but couldn't get runs in. We were our own worst enemy with several base-running errors that took us out of innings."

Game No. 1 was tight all the way. The Orioles bunched two hits with an error and a hit by pitch to punch in four runs in the 3rd inning to wipe out a 1-0 Mulvane lead.

The Wildcats came back in the 6th and probably should have tied the game at 5s. Whitney Sullivan worked a one-out walk and Kourtney Bell socked a single. Linnebur brought in two runs with a double but got nailed at third base trying to take third. Amanda Hagerman then grounded out to end the rally. In the last inning, the Cats went away meekly, three up, three down.

The loss signaled the end of Parsons' three-game winning streak. She gave up nine hits and walked one. Two of the five runs against her were unearned.

"That's the first time Taylor has gone up against hitters like this," said Mason. "It was a good experience for her. As I said earlier, you make mistakes against a team like Augusta and you're not going to win. They jump on those mistakes, which is exactly what they did."

The second game wasn't close after Augusta broke a 1-1 deadlock in the 4th with three runs. The Orioles added two more in the 5th and put the Cats in the deep freeze with three more in the sixth. The MHS girls out-hit Augusta, 10-9, but as it is in a lot of cases, it's when, not how many.



Wildcats Whitney Sullivan, left, and Jordan Owens (30) fly as they try for a high throw in a steal at 2nd by Wellington runner

Bell was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and Hagerman went 2-for-4 with one RBI. Amber Smith went 1-or-3 with the other RBI.

Mulvane had runners on base in each of the last six innings, including the bases loaded in both the 4th and 6th innings but

scored only one time in those two innings.

"They're tough...but they're beatable," said Mason. "You have to put the ball into play and force them to make mistakes. We did some of that during the games but we just couldn't get the big hits when we need-

ed them."

Mulvane will be idle today (April 19) before going to Andale for a big doubleheader Monday, April 19. At last report, the Indians were undefeated and leading the AVCTL Division IV.