

Two Shutouts

Wildcat Girls Bounce Back

It was bounce back time for the Mulvane High School softball girls. Coming off a double dose of Andale, the Wildcats took their frustrations out on Andover with a two-game sweep Thursday, April 26, in a series that was moved to the Mulvane sports complex because of wet grounds in Andover.

Everything was working in Mulvane's favor and it didn't take long for Coach Charlie Mason's Wildcat girls to establish themselves against the Trojans. Mulvane won the first game, 14-0, and took the nightcap, 11-0.

"You could say it was a good day, we got great pitching and we put a few hits together and we took advantage of a few of their mistakes," emphasized Coach Charlie Mason. "And it was nice to see Taylor (pitcher Taylor Parsons) come back and get on track. She has been pretty consistent all season long but she didn't have one of her better games at Andale."

Mulvane was coming off two losses on a trip last week to Andale.

"We got people on base when we needed it and you can't say enough about Whitney Sullivan in the lead-off spot," said Mason. "She was on base all eight times up although she was 0-for-0. She walked four times, got hit twice and reached on catcher's interference twice."

The twin shutouts came in the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League gave the Cats a 3-2 mark in the AVCTL Division III race and an 8-5 record overall.

"It was a good stroke to be able to play at home," said Mason. "That was a plus. They are all important from here on out. Fortunately, we have five of our last seven games at home."

Parsons, a freshman, was her overpowering self in the first game, firing a one-hitter and striking out eight Trojans. She also didn't walk a batter as she faced only 16 Trojans in the five-inning game.

Meanwhile, the MHS batters came alive early and often. Mulvane scored three runs in the 1st, then broke it open with four more in the 3rd inning when Lexi Linnebur walked, Jordan Cox reached on an error and Jordan Owens lashed a two RBI double. Stephanie Wilson smacked a single with one run scoring and she scored on a passed ball.

Owens finished with a giant game, going 3-for-4 with three RBIs and one run scored. First baseman Amanda Hagerman went 2-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs scored and Cox was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and two RBIs.

In the second game, the senior Sullivan matched Parsons' showing on the mound as she shot down the Trojan offense without a

FIRST GAME

Mulvane	304 25—14	12
Andover	000 00—0	1
Taylor Parsons and Stephanie Wilson; Milligan and Rehab.		

SECOND GAME

Mulvane	401 24—11	7
Andover	000 00—0	0
Whitney Sullivan and Jordan Cox; Waggoner and Rehab.		

hit. She struck out five and walked only one. That means that in the doubleheader sweep, Andover had only three base runners. Sullivan had only two runners on base, one for a walk and one who reached on an error.

"The pitchers did do a great job but we also played good defense behind both of them," said Mason. "With Taylor and Whitney pitching like they were, there just weren't many opportunities to make plays, though. When our defense had to make a play, it did."

Mason cited Hagerman for excelling on defense at first, Kourtney Bell at 3rd base and Chelsea Vaughn, Jackie Schwemmer and Linnebur in the outfield.

Mulvane didn't wait long to get an offense going in the second game, either. The Cats bolted to a 4-0 lead after one inning, then ended the game with four more in the 5th and final inning.

In the first, Sullivan started the game by getting hit by a pitch. Schwemmer drilled a single and Hagerman followed with a two-run single. After Linnebur walked, Owens sliced a single to the outfield with Hagerman and Linnebur trotting home.

In the 5th, Vaughn walked and scored after Sullivan reached base when Schwemmer beat out a grounder. Both in front of Sullivan and Schwemmer scored when Bell blasted a two-run single and Bell came home when Hagerman singled.

It was a good game for the middle of the order. Hagerman was 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs and Bell went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and three RBIs.

"Our hitting still has got to get better," emphasized Mason. "It's hard to tell where you're at against the likes of the Circle and Andover pitching because they aren't the strongest pitchers in the league. It's something you just keep working on. One thing I am happy with, though, is the number of people in the line-up who are putting the bat on the ball."

Another AVCTL team is next. The MHS girls are at home today (May 3) against Buhler. The doubleheader at the sports complex will start at 4:30. The next day, the Cats and Rose Hill will make up the single game that was snowed out earlier this year. That home game will start at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4.