

Andale Chokes Off Cats To Eliminate Mulvane

It looked exactly like the game the Mulvane High School softball girls had played less than 24 hours earlier.

There was but one difference. The Cats were on the losing end.

Mulvane's season hit a brick wall Tuesday, May 15, in the semifinal round of the Wellington Class 4A Regional held at Warden Park in Wellington. Andale used a formula very familiar to the Wildcats: standout pitching, defense and timely hitting. And that helped send the Andale Indians to a 4-0 victory over the Cats.

The setback left Mulvane on the sidelines for state tournament play with a 14-7 record. Andale marched on at 20-2.

"It was really a carbon copy of our game the previous night except it happened to us," said veteran Coach Charlie Mason. A night earlier in the opening round, Mulvane had skunked Clearwater by an identical 4-0 score.

"Andale is pretty solid and athletic and quick," said Mason, "but it was more our failure to get the big hit or A hit. In the second inning, we got the bases loaded with one out but couldn't score. We hit the ball hard but right at people. And they just don't make many mistakes. The thing is you can't give good teams extra outs. We (coaches) said that the first day and we said that the last day."

The Indians pushed one run in in the 4th inning to break up a scoreless game. That run was unearned against freshman hurler Taylor Parsons. The run scored when Mulvane made three errors on one play.

Andale capped the game in the 5th with three more the legitimate way—four hits, including two doubles.

Meanwhile, the MHS offense consisted of a double by Kourtney Bell in the 1st inning and a single in the second by Chelsea Vaughn. That wasn't near enough even though Parsons pitched well. She gave up only six hits, struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.

The Wildcats nearly broke up the game early when Lexi Linnebur started the 2nd inning by walking. Jordan Owens also walked. After both were sacrificed over by Taylor Bell, Vaughn had an infield single, filling the bases. Parsons reached when Linnebur was out at the plate and Whitney Sullivan fanned to end the threat.

Against Clearwater, it was Mulvane that got the six hits, along with the same pattern of runs—one then three to stretch it to a good lead.

In the Clearwater game, Parsons was dominating. She struck out 15 and gave up only one hit.

"She just pitched a great game," said Mason. "We were fortunate we put together two or three hits in one inning. That big

inning kind of deflated Clearwater. Like I said, it was almost a carbon copy of today's game except it happened to us."

Kourtney Bell and Amanda Hagerman were the big guns for the Cat girls. Bell went 2-for-3 with one run scored and Hagerman was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and one RBI. Linnebur also had an RBI stroke in that inning.

The Wildcats had a fitting end to the regular season. It was a doubleheader that ended up being cut short by rain and bad weather—so what else is new?

The MHS Wildcats went to El Dorado Thursday, May 10, and polished off their 13th win of the season, a 3-0 victory over the El Dorado Wildcats. The game was ended in the top of the seventh with Mulvane having another run in and a Cat on second base.

That score didn't count because umpires called the game at that point.

Mulvane opened the scoring with one run in the 3rd when Chelsea Vaughn singled, Whitney Sullivan walked, Jordan Cox reached on a fielder's choice and Kourtney Bell whacked an RBI single.

Two more Mulvane runs were plated in the 4th inning. Lexi Linnebur walked and was sacrificed to second. Jordan Owens reached on an error and Jackie Schwenmer delivered both runs with a single.

The Mulvane Wildcats improved their record to 13-6 overall and to 6-3 in the league, locking up second place behind Augusta in the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail Division III race. Augusta went through the league unbeaten at 10-0 and Mulvane edged Rose Hill, which finished 6-4 in the league.

Wellington 4A Regional Softball Tournament

CHAMPIONSHIP

Andale 6, Rose Hill 7, 8 innings

SEMIFINALS

Mulvane 000 000 0-0 2

Andale 000130 x-4 6

Taylor Parsons and Jordan Cox, Karley Schuster and Chelsea Cox.

Rose Hill 6, Belle Plaine 4

FIRST ROUND

Clearwater 000 000 0-0 1

Mulvane 000 101 x-4 6

Karen Wabler and Ashton Watt, Taylor Parsons and Jordan Cox.

Andale 13, Kingston 0

Belle Plaine 10, Douglas 6

Rose Hill 3, Wellington 0

Regular Season

FIRST GAME

Mulvane 001 200-1 4

El Dorado 000 000-0 1

Taylor Parsons and Jordan Cox, Ryan and Lorren.

SECOND GAME

Cancelled by weather