



Dirt flying, Mulvane's Barry Milligan [20] slides safely into home against Valley Center

Record: 5-8

Cats Off, Then On

A baseball team with a split personality? Sounds loony...but so far this high school baseball season, it's been true.

In its first year "on the circuit," the Wildcats from Mulvane High have had more ups and downs than a telephone line repairman.

That trend continued the last week as Mulvane split doubleheaders with Valley Center, at home Monday, April 26, and at Circle last Thursday.

Against Valley Center, Mulvane couldn't do a thing right and lost, 7-0, in the opener, then came back playing a good baseball for a 6-4 winner in the second game. At Circle, the Cats blew a 10-1 lead in the final three innings and lost, 11-10, before regaining their composure for a 7-2 nightcap triumph.

The outings improved Mulvane's record to 5-8, heading into a league doubleheader at home today (April 29) against a tough Goddard squad.

Against the Hornet's Monday, the Cat bats went to sleep, righthander Joe Morris throwing a no-hitter.

"We had a lot of well-hit balls but they all ended up getting caught," said Cat coach Don Gifford, "and we ended up getting no-hit. Defensively, I don't know. Everybody in the field except (shortstop) Allen Whitmer made an error."

And most of those came in the five-run third inning when seven errors were committed. "Defensively, I don't know," mused Gifford. "Maybe we have too many juniors out there. We play 'young'. One will make an error and they all get frustrated. Those things shouldn't happen but they do. You look at the second game, though, and we didn't make an error. We just have a long way to go as far as mental approach to the game."

The poor fielding made a loser out of Cat junior righthander Robert Turner, who gave up only five hits.

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In the second game against the Hornets, junior Chris Hicks gave up seven safeties and walked six. The MHS bats started finding the holes but the biggest hit was an inside-the-park homer by Barry Milligan to lead off the third inning.

"That got us going," said Gifford of Milligan's towering fly to the rightfield corner, one of three Milligan hits in the game. Barry's hit seemed to pump us up. "It seems like the team that makes the errors loses and the Cats played good in the field. Mulvane scored its first three runs in the first inning as Valley made three errors.

At Circle, Mulvane took advantage of some shoddy Circle fielding to take a 10-1 lead after three innings. Gifford, feeling comfortable, removed all his starters but that's when the errors started coming and coming and coming. Before the starters returned, Circle had tied the game, scoring five in the fifth and four in the sixth. One more in the seventh after the Wildcat starters had failed to score in the top of the inning gave the Thunderbirds an improbable comeback.

"I guess I found out nine runs wasn't enough," noted Gifford.

Leftlander Dale Landes, a senior, hurled a five-hitter at Circle in the

second game, striking out eight and walking three.

Mulvane scored three in the second inning on RBI singles by Darin Faris and Whitmer and added another run on J.C. Shook's RBI single scoring Vic Marcelle in the third. Two more runs scored in the fifth when Whitmer and Todd Robinson walked and scored on a succession of errors and wild pitches.

First Game

Valley Center	005 20--7 5
Mulvane	000 00--0 0
Joe Morris and Steve Wright Robert Turner and Doug Ford	

Second Game

Valley Center	300 10--4 7
Mulvane	303 0x--6 11
Mark Kennedy Steve Wright 3 and Wright Rod Tormie 3	
HR--Barry Milligan (M)	

First Game

Mulvane	442 000 0--10 6
Circle	100 054 1--11 10
Chris Hicks, Robert Turner, 7, and J.C. Shook, Doug Ford 4, Charlie Keehn, Rick Glock 1, Tim Rankin 3, and Bill Henrie	
hr--Scott Coble (C)	

Second Game

Mulvane	031 21--7 8
Circle	001 01--2 5
Dale Landes and J.C. Shook, Don Varner, David DaMetz 4, and Bill Henrie.	