

Routine Win? Not For Cats

Nothing is routine for the Mulvane High School baseballers...nothing. Coach Don Gifford's Wildcats can turn a sacrifice fly into a three-ringed circus.

The Cats huffed and puffed, then held on before subduing a Class 1A team, Cedar Vale, 11-9, Tuesday, May 4, in the second round of the Walter Johnson League baseball tournament held at Dexter.

A day earlier in the opening round of the tournament, Mulvane was upset, 12-3, by another small school, Central of Burden, and knocked into the consolation round of the tournament. The Cats were to have played Douglass at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, followed by another game later in the day.

Cedar Vale appeared to have trouble getting enough players from its student body of 55 but the Cats equalized things by booting the ball a couple times in the first inning to fall behind, 2-0. The Cats finally scratched ahead for the last time with a five-run fifth inning, taking an 11-7 lead.

"Every game's a test," said Gifford, whose Cats stood at 6-9 following the Cedar Vale outing. "We don't have much confidence at defense, we're really struggling. We try to box the ball and knock it down instead of fielding it. When you do that, you don't get anybody out and you make errors.

"The important thing, though, was the win. It was good to get offense and hit the ball but the win was the most important thing because we're struggling. If we can win the two tomorrow and go into the regional tournament, we'll be okay. Right now, though, we're really in a confidence slump. We need a couple of big innings, a couple of good pitching performances, a couple of shutouts or a couple of good plays, something spectacular."

Cat righthander Robert Turner had a semi-spectacular game. He walked quite a few but he also struck out 16 to

WALTER JOHNSON LEAGUE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT Second Round-Consolation

Cedar Vale	204	102	0-9
Mulvane	121	250	x-11
Jerrold Sanders, Mark Jones 5, John Welch 5, and Charley Ellis, Sanders 5; Robert Turner and J.C. Shook.			
HR—Mark Jones (CV).			

First Round

Central-Burden	503	31-12	7
Mulvane	000	30-3	3
D. Wolfe and Sutton; Chris Hicks and J.C. Shook.			

go the distance against Cedar Vale, giving up nine hits.

"Robert wasn't throwing like he can," said Gifford. "They hit him hard but he did do better with his control and that's something we can work on."

The Mulvane offense also revved up a bit, too, after behind stymied with only three safeties against Central. The Cats had 12 hits, including three each by catcher J.C. Shook and junior Todd Robinson.

Mulvane scored in the first on a triple by Robinson followed by an infield out by Chris Hicks. Robinson and Shook each knocked in a run in the second inning with singles and in the third a sacrifice fly by senior Vic Marcelle plated Mulvane's fourth run.

In the fourth, RBI singles by Faris and Robinson chased home two more before the Cats lowered the boom with a five-run 5th. Marcelle lofted a booming ground-rule double to start the inning and scored on Dale Landes' base hit. Pinch hitter Barry Milligan reached on an error and both Landes and Milligan scored on a line double into the leftfield corner by the sophomore Shook. Shook scored when Faris' grounder was booted and Faris later scored on another error.

Against Central, Mulvane committed eight errors to give the underdogs 10 unearned runs. Mulvane's only runs came in the fourth when Milligan, Marcelle and Turner notched RBI singles.