

State-Bound

Turner's No-Hitter, Timely Hitting Formula Sending Cats To Emporia

The roller coaster ride that has been the Mulvane High School baseball season started another turn upwards as coach Don Gifford's Wildcats prepared to pack for Emporia.

Behind the brilliant no-hit pitching of righthanded junior Robert Turner, the Cats qualified for the Class 4-3-2-1A State Tournament by winning the rain-delayed Central (Burden) Regional Tuesday, May 18. Mulvane clipped the host Raiders, 3-0, in the championship game three hours after pounding Dexter, 15-3.

The Cats will take a 10-11 record into the state tournament, which will start Friday, May 21, at Soden Grove in Emporia.

Teams in the field are 4A schools Thomas More Prep of Hays, the defending state champion; Baxter Springs, Mulvane and Kansas City Sumner, 3A schools Silver Lake and Burlington, 2A Sedan and 1A Thayer. (See parings.) The Cats will meet Sumner at 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Gifford said he would start the MHS state title quest with Turner, who is coming off his finest two games back-to-back. "He's definitely at the top of his game right now," said Gifford. "If Robert pitches Friday like he did today, we're going to have one (victory) at state because he's just on his ball game."

Turner didn't give up a hit, fanned 15 Burden batters and issued only two walks.

A run scored in the second inning turned out to be enough. Vic Marcelle scored from second on a double to right-centerfield by Turner. Marcelle reached base on an error.

The Wildcats threatened again in the fifth and sixth before breaking through for the icing in the seventh with two big runs. Shortstop Allen Whitmer singled with one out and scored from second on a bloop double by Milligan. Two wild pitches later, Milligan crossed the plate with the third run of the game.

The Cats loaded the bases in the fifth but failed to push one across and junior Chris Hicks doubled and took third in the sixth inning but was stranded.

"That first run in the seventh inning was a big one," admitted Gifford.

"Barry dropped that ball into center and then we got one more and I felt Robert could hold 'em.

The victory allowed the Cats to avenge an earlier loss to Central in the league tournament and finished Central's season at 13-9.

In the regional opener against Dexter, the Cats banged out 10 hits and junior righthander Hicks smothered the Dexter offense with a five-hitter.

Quickly out of the chute, the Wildcats scored six runs in the first inning to intimidate Dexter, a game-starting home run by Whitmer and another one by Milligan two batters later seemed to lift MHS.

"We handled them pretty easily," said Gifford. "When two of your first three batters hit homers, it tends to get you off offensively. I think Dexter could have given us trouble if we wouldn't have gotten on them early. The two homers seemed to break their backs."

Whitmer had three RBIs and two hits in the first inning alone as Mulvane batted around. The Cat shortstop finished with a 3-for-3 game, scoring two runs.

Hicks scored four times and sent 2-for-4 against Dexter. Todd Robinson had a pair of hits in five at bats and Turner, J.C. Shook and Darin Faris all scored two runs.

CLASS 4-3-2-1A REGIONAL BASEBALL AT CENTRAL-BURDEN Championship

Mulvane	010 000 2--3 4
Central	000 000 0--0 0
Robert Turner and J.C. Shook, Dee Wolfe and Alan Sulton	

Semifinal

Mulvane	612 42--15 10
Dexter	002 01--3 5
Chris Hicks and J.C. Shook, Crow and Richardson	
HR--Allen Whitmer and Barry Milligan (M)	

Central 15, Douglas 8

CLASS 4-3-2-1A STATE TOURNAMENT AT EMPORIA

First Round Friday, May 21

Game 1--Silver Lake (15-6) vs. Sedan (14-8), 11 a.m.

Game 2--Kansas City Sumner (12-4) vs. Mulvane (10-11), 1:30 p.m.

Game 3--Thayer (15-7) vs. Thomas More Prep (11-6), 4 p.m.

Game 4--Baxter Springs (16-3) vs. Burlington (7-10), 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 22

Game 5--Winners of games 1 and 2, 10 a.m.

Game 6--Winners of games 3 and 4, 12 noon

Game 7 (third place)--Loser of games 5 and 6, 4 p.m.

Game 8 (championship)--Winners of games 5 and 6, 6:30 p.m.

