



Cat first sacker Pat Sellers starts his stretch in pick-off attempt Monday in MHS baseball opener--a victory over Campus

# Wildcats Open With Bang, Bag Victory Over Campus

Who said ask and you shall receive? Mulvane High School baseball coach Don Gifford asked for a good defensive outing. He got it. He asked for strong pitching. He got it. He asked for some hitting. He got it.

The Wildcat baseball mentor was nothing short of pleased following the season opening 12-1 victory in Mulvane Monday afternoon, March 21, over Campus (Haysville). The scheduled doubleheader was shortened to a single contest because of cold weather.

"The thing that impressed me most was not the fact that we scored 12 runs," claimed Gifford, who coached the Cats a year ago to a 10-12 record and into the Class 4A state tourney. "What I liked was the fact that we ran the bases well--we didn't have a base-running error, and we hit the cut-off man throwing from the outfield. We made some tough plays (defensively), too."

And Gifford wasn't pooh-poohing the fact that his pitching staff scattered three hits and gave up only one unearned run, while his big bats were ringing out nine hits.

The Cats started the game on an automatic high-four tallies in the opening frame. Chris Hicks reached on an error, as did Barry Milligan. Todd Robinson rapped the season's first hit, taking a one-ball pitch to left-center for



### Varsity Baseball

Campus 001 000-- 1 3  
Mulvane 410 412--12 9  
Mike Slusher, Jim Gamble 4, and Chuck Plush  
Chris Hicks, Robert Turner 5, and J.C. Shook

a two-run double. He scored moments later on Allen Whitmer's one-bagger. Whitmer scored on a throwing error.

Another run crossed in the second inning when Milligan and Robinson again teamed up, the fleet Milligan tripling and coming across on a sacrifice by Robinson.

Four more in the fourth made it 9-1. J.C. Shook igniting the rally with the first of his two hits for the game. He scored on an error when Milligan reached base. Robinson walked and Whitmer singled in Milligan and Robinson.

Mulvane's final two runs crossed in the shortened game's 6th inning when

Pat Sellers singled in Darrin Faris, who had walked. Sellers then scored on Shook's triple to deep left-centerfield.

Hicks, a senior righthander, notched the victory with relief help in the 5th by another senior righthander, Robert Turner. Hicks gave up only an unearned run in the second. He issued only two hits, a single in the first and a triple in the third. Hicks walked only one batter and fanned seven.

Turner mopped up, although he seemed to struggle in the fifth when the Colts loaded the sacks with two out. Fine defensive catches in the outfield by Terry Reusser and Milligan saved the day.

The MHS baseballers will be idle until after spring break when they will tangle with Goddard in a twinbill at Goddard at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 5.