

Shook, Sellers Swinging Hot Bats

Cats Into League Title Game

Mulvane High School's bats came alive at the same time Robert Turner's late-blooming arm has and that's good for the Wildcats.

The Wildcats broke out of a year-long batting lull Tuesday, May 3, in the Walter Johnson League Tournament at Burden and raced into the finals on the hitting of juniors J.C. Shook and Pat Sellers and the pitching of Turner and Todd Travis. The Cats hammered Thayer, 9-0, in a five-inning game, then disposed of Valley Center, 4-1, with Shook's three hits and Sellers' four pacing at 11-hit assault.

In each game, Turner, with relief help from Travis, shut down the opponents on only two hits.

Coach Don Gifford's Cats were to have played Augusta at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, in the league championship game, the Orioles ripping Sedan, 7-2, to reach the finals. In a first-round game, Mulvane stumped Dexter, 6-1, at Dexter.

"Robert's arm seems to come around at the end of the year and this year is no exception," said Gifford, recalling the late-season success Turner had last year. "And we're hitting the ball. J.C.'s stroking the ball better than he ever has and so is Sellers. On defense, we've played about four or five straight good defensive games, so people are having to earn their runs. We're not making dumb mistakes."

Raising their overall record to 7-9 against Valley, the Cats jumped ahead in the first inning when Allen Whitmer reached on a fielder's choice, Barry Milligan walked and Sellers stroked the first of his four consecutive hits, scoring Whitmer. Milligan then scored on a wild pitch.

Two more runs scored in the third when Shook and Sellers had RBI singles. Sellers finished 4-for-4 and Shook went 3-for-4.

In the Thayer game, the Wildcats pushed across four runs in the first on a two-run single by Turner, and RBI double by Shook and Milligan's base hit, plus two errors.

Four more in the fourth iced the game. Terry Reusser led off with a double and scored on a base hit by Whitmer. Milligan then walked before Shook cracked a line drive homer over the fence against the wind.

The homer was the second in two days for Shook, who also homered against

Dexter. Righthander Chris Hicks cruised in that one behind a five-hit job with nine strikeouts.

In a regular season twinbill Thursday, the Wildcats rallied from behind for a 7-6 verdict in the opener, then spoiled a fine pitching performance by Robert Turner in the nightcap with a 2-0 loss on the Mulvane diamond.

In the opener, Winfield had a 5-0 lead

when the Cats erupted in the bottom of the 5th on one hit, a leadoff single by Travis. Darin Faris and Terry Reusser both walked before Travis scored on an error and Faris was gunned down at the plate on Whitmer's infield grounder. Robinson drew a walk and went to second on the fourth ball wild pitch. Two errors later Reusser, Whitmer and Robinson all had scored to make it 5-4.

The Wildcats tied it in the 7th on two-out hits by Turner and Tavis, who went 3-for-4, and won it the next inning on doubles by Faris and Whitmer to end the game.

In the second game, J.C. Shook rapped two hits and Whitmer and Robinson had singled and that was all the offense the Cats could muster. Turner scattered five hits and didn't walk a batter. In the first game, Hicks gave up 11 hits, walked three and registered the win.



WALTER JOHNSON LEAGUE TOURNEY

Semifinals	
Mulvane	202 000 0-4 11
Valley Center	001 000 0-1 2
Robert Turner, Todd Travis 6, and J.C. Shook; Steve Wright and Mark Kennedy.	
Second Round	
Thayer	000 00-0 2
Mulvane	410 4x-9 9
Greg Welch, Terry Smedley 4, and Jeff Holtzman; Robert Turner, Todd Travis 5, and J.C. Shook. HR--J.C. Shook (M).	
First Round	
Dexter	000 000 1-1 5
Mulvane	200 112 x-6 4
Rick Richardson and Tom Defore; Chris Hicks and J.C. Shook	
HR--J.C. Shook (M).	



Allen Whitmer legs out an infield base hit against Winfield

First Game

Winfield	000 141 00-6 11
Mulvane	000 040 21-7 10
Matt Conners, Robert Soto 7, and Chuck Cargile, Conners 7; Chris Hicks and J.C. Shook.	

Second Game

Winfield	002 000 0-2 5
Mulvane	000 000 0-0 4
Steve Spencer and Matt Conners; Robert Turner and J.C. Shook.	