

Inconsistent Play Mars Youthful Wildcat Games

Mulvane High School baseball coach Don Gifford is quickly finding out the trademarks of youth--flashes of brilliance followed by frequent flashes of mediocrity.

"We're just very young," pointed out Gifford Saturday, April 7, following his club's 8-6 loss to Goddard in the first game of a scheduled twinbill. "Our theme now is to get better every game. We don't have the experience to hang in there. We'll look very good one time and very bad the next. That's a sign of youth and inexperience and that pretty much tells the story."

Between rainfalls last week, the Wildcats saw their record dip to 1-4 when they lost to the Lions in their first Walter Johnson League bout at home and split a pair Friday, April 6, with Campus (Haysville), taking an 8-6 victory in the opener and bowing, 8-4, in the second game. They also had three games washed out. Monday's double-header at home against Valley Center was postponed until 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17. Goddard's nightcap has not been rescheduled yet.

The next action for the Cats will be at 4 p.m. this afternoon (April 12) when Rose Hill comes to town for two games.

"Our hitting at the top of the order has been good but we're not producing at the bottom of the order," said Gifford. "We have a total of four hits at the bottom (and a batting average of .148).



PREP BASEBALL WALTER JOHNSON LEAGUE

First Game

Goddard	003 401-8 7
Mulvane	200 004-6 3
Mike Kerschen, John Wilson 6, and Mike Kendrick, David Edson and J.C. Shook	
HR--J.C. Shook (M)	

Second Game

Rained out

NON-LEAGUE RESULTS

First Game

Mulvane	400 000 4-8 9
Campus	600 000 0-6 7
Curtis Hicks and Jeff Powell, Mike Deck, Tom Gamble 7, and Nick Domenico, Pat Lemons 3	

Second Game

Mulvane	100 120 0-4 7
Campus	020 024 x-8 8
Brian Cusick, Gordie Wayman 6, J.C. Shook 6, and Jeff Powell, John Resko and Rick Plush, Pat Lemons 3	

"Our pitching hasn't been that bad but we don't have anybody who can blow you away. Consequently, most teams are going to put the ball into play against us rather than strike out and when that happens, you have to be able to field behind those people. We're not fielding like we should. We've made 23 errors in five ball games, that's about twice as many as we should. We're just making those "inexperience-type" errors and we've made a lot of throwing errors, another sign of inexperience."

In the game against Goddard, the Cats fell behind in the middle innings when the Lions scored seven times in the third and fourth innings. "It was raining the entire ball game and Goddard put the ball into play and we were worrying too much about fielding the ball in the rain," stressed Gifford. "During that same time, their pitcher got hot and struck out eight of our people, so we weren't getting the benefit of Goddard having to field in the rain."

Catcher J.C. Shook, a three-year starter, put the Cats on top when he slammed a two-run homer over the centerfield fence in the opening quarter

but Mulvane didn't score again until the last inning when they were down, 8-2. Greg Quigley, a junior, started the uprising with a single and took second on a wild pitch. Shook was intentionally walked and Jeff Powell loaded the sacks with a walk. Pinch hitter Mike Stump also was walked to force in one run and Terry Reusser followed with a single to score one. Walks to Gordie Wayman and Kris Withrow gave the Cats two more runs before the rally died.

Freshman Curtis Hicks looked sharp in his debut on the hill in the opener against Campus. After giving up six runs in the opening frame, Hicks settled down and allowed only two hits the last six innings to register the win.

Meanwhile, his mates exploded with a four-run rally in the top of the 7th to win it. Mike Snow led off by reaching on an error. He scored after a Quigley double up the middle and ground out by Shook. Powell doubled to deliver Quigley. After Pat Sellers walked, Reusser doubled to left-centerfield scoring the winning runs.

In the nightcap, Powell went 3-for-4 with one run scored and two RBIs as he continued to swing a hot bat. Right-hander Brian Cusick, another youngster, pitched well until the sixth when the Colts broke a 4-4 tie with four runs before Wayman and Shook took the mound.

Snow scored Mulvane's first run when he started the game with a base rap, stole second and scored on two throwing errors. Hicks got an RBI in the 4th when he grounded out to plate Powell. The Cats took a short-lived 4-2 lead in the 5th when Quigley singled and Shook was hit by a pitch. Sellers walked to fill the bases before a wild pitch allowed Quigley to jog home. Powell then doubled to score Shook.