

Cat Nine Sinking Fast

The light at the end of the tunnel isn't another freight train coming. Don Gifford, Mulvane High School baseball coach, believes it's his Wildcats coming out of the darkness.

Mulvane saw its record slip to 1-8 this season with a doubleheader loss Tuesday evening, April 17, to Valley Center but the 6-4 setback in two extra innings in the second game gave Gifford something to look forward to. The Hornets won the opener, 8-2.

"I think it could be the turning point for the season," said Gifford. "We could have gone out there and folded in the second game but we didn't. We used 19 players and all 19 did exactly the job they were supposed to do. We played our best ball of the year, we were competitive and we battled back. I think it might be the mental lift we need."

In the opener, the visiting Hornets pecked away in the first two innings then busted loose for four runs in the fourth to rock Cat starter Mike Stump.

"We just played very poorly in that game," stressed Gifford. "We made three really costly errors, the mental-type errors that really killed us."

And there wasn't much offense, either, as the Wildcats solved VC pitching for eight hits. Mulvane finally pushed across a run in the 5th when freshman Curtis Hicks singled and

First Game

Valley Center	110	401	1-8	11
Mulvane	000	010	1-2	8

Joe Morris, Brian Lesperance 8, and Steve Wright, Mark Kennedy 3; Mike Stump, David Edson 4, and J.C. Shook.

Second Game

Valley Center	000	210	12-6	6
Mulvane	001	200	10-4	7

Brian Lesperance, Steve Wright 7, and Mark Kennedy; Brian Cusick, J.C. Shook 4, Mike Snow 5, and Shook, Jeff Powell 4, Shook 5.

First Game

Mulvane	020	000	1-3	5
Augusta	200	013	x-8	9

David Edson, Mike Snow 1, J.C. Shook 6, and Shook, Jeff Powell 6; Russell Moore and Galen Browning.

Second Game

Mulvane	000	00-0	2
Augusta	100	0x-1	1

Curtis Hicks and J.C. Shook; Pete Bodyk and Galen Browning.

scored on a Greg Quigley double against winning hurler Joe Morris.

Another Mulvane run scored in the seventh when Greg Wilson doubled and Quigley followed suit with his second double of the game.

Inexperienced Brian Cusick pitched well in the second game for Mulvane but the MHS offense faltered. Valley scored in the top of the seventh but Mulvane rallied to tie it in the bottom when J.C. Shook made it to first on a fielder's choice, stole second and scored when sophomore Kris Withrow drilled an RBI single with two out.

After Valley scored two in the third

extra inning, the Cats nearly rallied when Gordie Wayman reached on a fielder's choice and Brian Nulik rapped his third hit of the game but the next two Cats made outs to end the game.

Gifford's crew had no success Friday at Augusta, where the Orioles swept a twin bill, taking a 6-3 first-game win and making it unanimous with a 1-0 pitcher's duel in the nightcap.

Freshman righthander Curtis Hicks again was a shining light in an otherwise dismal setting. He limited Augusta to only one hit in the second game but the Mulvane offense was nil as old nemesis Pete Bodyk blanked the Cats on only two hits, a single in the third by Mike Shook and a pinch-hit single in the fifth by Pat Sellers. "That's the fourth straight time Bodyk has beaten us," said Gifford.

Hicks went the distance and walked only two but gave up a run in the first inning without the benefit of a hit.

In the opener at Augusta, Greg Quigley and Brian Nulik keyed the Wildcat offense with two hits apiece. Both of Nulik's went for extra bases.

The Wildcats will be in action at home Monday, April 23, when Circle comes to town for a Walter Johnson League game. The doubleheader will start at 4 p.m.