

# Tournament 'Jitters'

## End MHS Season

It didn't take long for the Mulvane High School baseball season to come to a sudden halt Thursday, May 10, in the Class 4A Regional at Hutchinson's Rice Park. The Wildcats lasted a half-inning before Valley Center blew open the game with a 12-run first inning, then coasted to a 23-2 verdict.

"There wasn't much doubt after the first inning," said MHS coach Don Gifford. "I think the difference was we came out with a case of the jitters and they didn't. Curtis (Hicks) wasn't comfortable on the mound and made some freshman mistakes and we also didn't back him in the field or at the plate.

"We had an error or two in the first which hurt but there were a lot of things happening in the first inning that contributed to our downfall."

The Cats closed the year with little to cheer about. Gifford, coaching his final game for Mulvane before moving on to Nickerson for a football head coaching post, saw his season end at 5-14 record.

Mulvane, which had played league sister Valley tough earlier, came out smoking--but there wasn't any fire. Mike Snow led off the game with a booming triple to gap in left centerfield and scored Greg Quigley's ground out. Sellers singled, went to second on Jeff Powell's base knock but that was the end of it.

The Hornets rebounded with some smoke of their own--12 runs on six hits to chase freshman starter Curtis Hicks and his relief Mike Snow before Brian Cusick stopped the onslaught.

Another bright moment came in the third when Sellers blasted a home run over the left centerfield fence but after Powell singled again, the side went out meekly.

Brian Nulik rapped two hits and Greg Quigley got the other Mulvane hit.

If the VC boys didn't have the first round game put away in the first, they

### CLASS 4A REGIONAL TOURNAMENT AT HUTCHINSON'S RICE PARK First Round

Mulvane	101 00-- 2 8
Valley Center	(12)0(10) 1x--23 12
Curtis Hicks, Mike Snow 1, Brian Cusick 1, Mike Slump 3, David Edson 3, and Jeff Powell, Joe Morris and Steve Wright	
HR--Pat Sellers (M), Brian Lesperance (VC)	

certainly did after the third, scoring 10 more times.

"It wasn't pretty," said Gifford. "We got to see half a good ball game. That half came every time they came to the plate. They're really improving but I guess not enough."

The Hornets were knocked out of a state tournament trip later in the day when Thomas More Prep topped them, 2-1, to send TMP to the Class 4A state meet once again. The Cadets, who whipped Nickerson, 12-1, in the first round, will meet Baxter Springs today (May 17) in the opening round of the 4A State Championship.

Following the game, Gifford announced assistant David Katzenmeier was moving up and would be the head coach with Dennis Tegethoff assisting next season.