

Tied For 1st

Cats Split Showdown

Even leading the league, Mulvane High School baseball coach David Katzenmeier sees room for improvement, especially with the "whole season" in front of him.

Katzenmeier, in his first year as head coach, has the Wildcats tied for first place with Augusta in the Chisholm Trail League baseball race after splitting a doubleheader at Augusta Thursday, April 18. The host Orioles battered the Cats, 13-5, in the opener but Mulvane rallied in the second game with a three-homer barrage on the way to a 7-2 triumph.

In another league match-up Monday, April 22, MHS routed Circle, 15-7, in the first of two games. The second game was rained out and will be re-scheduled later this week.

The Wildcats will tangle with last-place Goddard in a twinbill today (April 25) with the first game starting at 2:30 p.m. The league tournament starts Monday and Tuesday, April 29-30, and will be held at two locations, Augusta and Valley Center. Seedings will be made later this week, according to Katzenmeier.

The Augusta showdown was a big one for the young Wildcats. "And it got even bigger after we lost the first game," said Katzenmeier. "Augusta came out hitting the ball and we didn't play well defensively, plus they got all the breaks. We didn't panic, though, and felt like we could put it back together and we did."

Needing a win to remain in a deadlock for the lead, Katzenmeier's troops came alive in the 4th inning after the Orioles had edged out to a 2-0 lead in the third. Outfielder Kris Withrow powered a home run with two out and Greg Quigley on to tie the game. The Cats broke loose in the 6th inning to wrap up the game with five more runs.

Senior Jeff Powell ignited the rally with a solo homer to lead off the inning and outfielder Greg Wilson followed suit. Both David Belew and Jeff Belden worked walks before sophomore Curtis Hicks slapped a two-run double, then scored on an infield out.

Righthander Morgan LeClair limited the Orioles to five hits and struck out seven in a distance-going game.

Hicks wasn't as lucky in the opener as Augusta scored six in the first and

PREP BASEBALL CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE

First Game

Circle	004	30--7	8
Mulvane	(10)00	23--15	8
Danny Smith, William Johnson, and Mike Johnson, Mike Stump, Curtis Hicks 4, and Jeff Belden			
HR--Greg Wilson (M)			

Second Game

Rained out after 1½ innings, 0-0

First Game

Mulvane	120	02--5	7
Augusta	607	00-13	16
Curtis Hicks, Mike Stump 3, and Jeff Belden; Troy Palmer and Galen Browning			
HR--Jeff Powell (M), Troy Palmer (A)			

Second Game

Mulvane	000	205--7	5
Augusta	002	000--2	5
Morgan LeClair and Jeff Belden, Tom Smith, A J Bodyk 6, and Galen Browning			
HR--Kris Withrow, Jeff Powell, Greg Wilson (M)			

seven more in the third before Lefty Mike Stump put down the uprising.

Powell had another homer, a 2-run shot in the fifth inning, and Hicks doubled in two more runs in the second. Greg Quigley's triple in the first inning scored Brian Nulik but that was all the Mulvane offense.

"That second game was a big one for us because it kept us tied for the lead," added Katzenmeier. "I think we have a good shot at the league championship, a good shot at the regional and a good shot at going to State."

In the victory over Circle, MHS put the pressure on with 10 runs in the first, added two in the fourth and took the worry out of being close in the fifth with three more runs.

In the big first, six walks, a two-run double by Belden and RBI hits by Mike Snow, Quigley and Wilson blew the game open early. Wilson had a "lifetime" game, knocking in five runs and going 3-for-4. His big blow was a two-run homer in the 4th. Snow and Quigley both scored three runs.

"We scored 10 in the first, then kind of sat back and watched them play for about five innings before we started coming alive again," said Katzenmeier. "These kids need to play every game like they're a run behind. We're leading the league, and that's what you want. We still have room for improvement, though. Hopefully, these little improvements will come in the next couple of weeks because we're talking about the season in the next few weeks--the league tournament, the regional tournament and the state tourney."