

Mulvane Baseballers Regional Titlists, Eye Championship

Emporia's a great place to visit, especially around the 4A state baseball tournament time. Coach David Katzenmeier's Mulvane Wildcats earned their place in the Class 4A-3A-2A-1A State Baseball Tournament by taking the No. 1 trophy Wednesday, May 1, in the Central (Burden) Regional.

The state-bound wildcats (17-5) will tangle with No. 4 seeded Chase County (17-5) in the first game of the state tournament at 11 a.m. Friday, May 17. The site is Soden's Grove in Emporia.

The Wildcats also locked up first place in the Chisholm trail League by pounding Circle, 11-0, in a make-up game Friday, May 10, giving MHS three league championships in the same year. The Cats also won the CTL football and basketball titles.

"The trip to the state is icing on the cake," said Katzenmeier, who is coaching his first season. "We felt we could go and set that as a goal. Now that it has happened, you have to be happy."

It's the second trip to the baseball state tourney for the Wildcats. Mulvane lost to Kansas City Sumner in the first round at state in 1982.

Chase County thumped Augusta, 5-3, in a regional championship game to advance. The Orioles have beaten Mulvane twice this season and lost one game to Mulvane.

Unbeaten Sedan (20-0) was the No. 1 seed at Emporia and will play Rossville (8-9) at 1:30 Friday. The No. 2 seed went to Baxter Springs' 19-1 club, which will meet Thomas More Prep (10-8) at 4, followed by the game between Kansas City Piper (15-4) and Pittsburg Colgan (14-5) at 6:30.

In the final league game against Circle, Morgan LeClair picked up where Brian Cusick left off when the game was halted April 22nd by rain. LeClair gave up only one hit and struck out six over the last four innings.

CENTRAL CLASS 4A-3A-2A-1A REGIONAL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Central 002 000 0-2 4
Mulvane 010 111 x-4 7
Danny Snow and Shane Green, Curtis Hicks, Morgan LeClair 6, and Jeff Belden
HR--Bryan Pingry (C)

SEMIFINALS

Douglass 000 02-- 2 3
Mulvane 352 7x--17 8
Rod Meyer, Kevin Darter 3, and Jeff Myers, Brian Cusick and Jeff Belden
HR--Justin Price (D)

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Central (Burden) 9, Rose Hill 4

PREP BASEBALL CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE

Circle 000 00-- 0 2
Mulvane 065 0x--11 10
Scott Tole, Bruce Hoover 2, William Johnson 4, and Mike Johnson; Brian Cusick, Morgan LeClair 2, and Robert Fortner, Jeff Belden 2.

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE FINAL BASEBALL STANDINGS (Records include league games only)

Team	W	L
x-Mulvane	10	2
Augusta	8	3
Nickerson	8	3
Rose Hill	5	7
Circle	3	8
Valley Center	3	8
Goddard	2	8

x-won league championship

CLASS 4A-3A-2A-1A STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT AT SODEN'S GROVE (EMPORIA)

Friday, May 17

Game 1 -- Chase County (17-5) vs. Mulvane (17-5), 11 a.m.
Game 2 -- Sedan (20-0) vs. Rossville (8-9), 1:30 p.m.
Game 3 -- Baxter Springs (19-1) vs. Thomas More Prep (10-8), 4
Game 4 -- Kansas City Piper (15-4) vs. Pittsburg Colgan (14-5), 6:30

Saturday, May 18

Game 5 (semifinal) -- Winners of games 1 and 2, 10 a.m.
Game 6 (semifinal) -- Winners of games 3 and 4, 12 noon
Game 7 (third place) -- Losers of games 5 and 6, 4 p.m.
Game 8 (championship) -- Winners of games 5 and 6, 6:30 p.m.

Offensively, Mike Snow and Jeff Powell had RBI singles and Brian Nulik chopped an RBI double in Mulvane's six-run second inning. Nulik singled again in the third inning driving home two more runs and Mike Shook also had a run-producing single in the inning.

Mulvane boosted its record to 16-5 and claimed a nice regional championship plaque by over-powering hapless Douglass, 17-2, and smothering Central's offense in a 4-2 game for the title.

Sophomore righthander Curtis Hicks choked off the Central batters on only three hits through the first five innings but a lead-off double in the sixth brought on another sophomore righthander, Morgan LeClair, who struck out six consecutive batters to end the game. Hicks finished as the winner and struck out nine.

"Curtis did a fine job and Morgan mowed them down," said Katzenmeier. "The only thing they got off Morgan was a weak foul ball."

The Cats took a 1-0 lead in the second inning after Hicks escaped a two-on, no-out jam in the top of the inning. David Belew smacked a single and took second on a passed ball. He scored on Jeff Belden's base knock. After Central scored twice in the third, Mulvane came back to knot the score at 2-2 when Hicks walked to start the 4th. A passed ball and two outs later, Mike Stump drilled an RBI single to score Hicks.

Mulvane added a run in the 5th when Greg Wilson singled and scored on another Belew base hit, and scored for the final time in the 6th when Kris Withrow walked, went to second on an error by the pitcher and scored when Greg Quigley laced a single.

The regional opener was a cakewalk, as Mulvane benefited from 12 walks issued by Douglass pitchers. After three in the first, the Cats scored five more in the second to quickly turn the game into a rout. Brian Nulik and Wilson had RBI hits in the second.

Quigley finished with four runs scored. Outfielder Mike Snow scored three times and was 2-for-4. Nulik went 2-for-4 and first sacker Jeff Powell was 1-for-1 with three runs scored.

Righthander Brian Cusick went the distance easily, spacing only three hits, all coming in the last two innings. He struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.