

5-2 Loss To Chase Co!

Wildcat Miscues Grease Skids For Opening Loss At State

EMPORIA--It didn't take long for a "dream game" for the Mulvane High School Wildcat baseball team to turn into a two-hour nightmare Friday morning, May 17, in the first round of the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Class 4A-3A-2A-1A State Baseball Tournament here.

The Wildcats bumbled, stumbled and tumbled in its opening game as Chase County cranked out a 5-2 victory over Mulvane based on errors and walks as much as base hits.

The loss ended Mulvane's season at 17-6 and Chase County went on to lose both its next two games to finish 4th in the tournament. Baxter Springs took the state title by toppling surprising Rossville, 17-9, in the championship game Saturday, May 18, on the Soden's Grove diamond.

Baxter Springs (22-1) had earlier squeaked past two opponents in one-run games. Kansas City Piper buried Chase County, 15-5, to take third place.

For the Wildcats, it was a disappointing game after playing sound defense all season. The Bulldogs from nearby Chase County benefited from six Mulvane errors and eight walks.

"When you make more errors than you do hits, don't count on winning," said MHS coach David Katzenmeier following the season finale. "That's basically what it boils down to. Even with the six errors, if we could have hit any at all, we would have been right in there with them, but we didn't do it at the plate, either. The bats cooled off a little toward the last half of the year and it was carried on in the tournament.

"We were really happy to be there (in the state tournament). The kids played super ball all year long, won the league championship, the regional title and had lots of good things during the season. Hopefully, our underclassmen gained some valuable experience from the state tournament and it will help next year if we get back up here."

It was trouble from the word "go" for the Cats. Chase County had runners in every single inning but stranded 12 runners.

"That was probably our worst defensive game," admitted Katzenmeier, who finished off his first season as the Cat coach. "We struggled every inning. Curtis (Hicks) never got around to pitch like Curtis can. If we could have played the way we are capable of playing, I think we could have gotten into the finals. That first game's always the hard one. In a single elimination tourney, you have to play prime cut baseball every game and we didn't."

The first three batters reached base against the sophomore righthander Hicks. Two walks sandwiched around a base hit loaded the sacks. One run scored on a base hit and a second scored on shortstop Greg Quigley's error. The Bulldogs again loaded the bases in the second but Hicks wiggled his way out of the jam.

A lazy fly ball dropped by Cat rightfielder Mike Shook opened the gates for two more runs by Chase County in the fourth inning, chasing Hicks in favor of another soph righthander, Morgan LeClair. But LeClair was promptly greeted by a two-run double.

The Wildcats nearly made a game of it in spite of the poor play in the sixth inning after Greg Wilson reached on an error in the 5th inning to give Mulvane its first baserunner. In the sixth, pinch-hitter Mike Stump walked on four pitches and Mike Snow laced a single to left for Mulvane's second hit. Brian Nullk walked to fill the bases with none out. A run scored on Jeff Powell's high bouncer to second, the ball nearly skipping over the second sacker's glove. Wilson drilled a single to score Snow before pinch-hitter Gordie Wayman's sinking fly to right was snared.

David Belew finished with two hits and nearly hit one out in the third inning, backing the leftfielder to the fence for a long out. Snow and Wilson got the only other two Cat hits.

It was Mulvane's second visit to the state baseball tournament, both ending in the first round. In 1982, the Wildcats were beaten in the first round by Kansas City Sumner.



Coach Katzenmeier visits mound during state tourney to visit with pitcher Curtis Hicks, Greg Quigley and Jeff Powell listen in

Katzenmeier Announces 19 Baseball Lettermen

Eight seniors headed up a list of 19 lettermen announced earlier this week by Mulvane High School baseball coach David Katzenmeier.

The 19 lettermen and one provisional letterman guided the Wildcats to the school's first-ever Chisholm Trail League, a regional championship and berth in the Class 4A-3A-2A-1A State Championship and a 17-6 record.

The senior letter winners announced included David Belew, David Edson,

Robert Fortner, Brian Nulik, Jeff Powell, Greg Quigley, Greg Wilson and Gordie Wayman.

Juniors who lettered were Jeff Belden, Brian Cusick, Wes Moore, Mike Shook, Mike Stump, Mike Snow and Kris Withrow. Curtis Hicks, Morgan LeClair, Kyle Steadman and Jarrod Young were the sophomores who earned letters.

Junior Reese Brown was a provisional letterman.

4A-3A-2A-1A STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT AT SODEN'S GROVE-EMPORIA
Championship
Baxter Springs 17, Rossville 9
Third Place
KC Piper 15, Chase County 5
Semifinals
Baxter Springs 10, Kansas City Piper 9
Roseville 13, Chase County 8
First Round
Mulvane .000 0-2 4
Chase County .200 2-1 8
Curtis Hicks, Morgan LeClair 4, Brian Cusick 7, and Jeff Belden, Ted Francko and Steve Meyers.
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Roseville 7, Soden 2
Baxter Springs 11, Thomas More Prep 10
Kansas City Piper 9, Pittsburg Colgan 2