



Cats' Mike Snow scoots back into first in season opener against Wichita South

Mulvane Goes 1-3

Wildcats Smoke After Pow-Wow

There were smoke signals coming from the "pow wow" out in the leftfield corner of Floyd Carver Baseball Field Monday afternoon, April 7, and it wasn't Indians on the warpath. It was Mulvane High School baseball coach David Katzenmeier.

Katzenmeier got his forces shaped up after an 11-7 defeat in the first game of a Chisholm Trail League doubleheader here against Nickerson and the Cats came back to smoke the Panthers, 4-0, in the nightcap.

The split gave the Wildcats, the pre-season CTL favorite, a 1-3 record heading into another loop doubleheader slated today (April 10) at Rose Hill. Game time is 4 p.m.

"This was a pow wow but more of a heated pow wow," said Katzenmeier of his between-game visit with his squad. "We didn't play very good baseball in the opener against a team we should have beaten. We started poorly and gradually got worse. It was a total collapse. Our pitchers didn't pitch, our infielders didn't field, our outfielders didn't do their job and the coaches made some bad decisions. This all adds up to a loss, and I hope we don't play like that again. Everybody felt badly about the way we played."

Katzenmeier tried to project an optimistic note following the game. "We're not out there to split like some teams," said Katzenmeier. "We're better than that. Nickerson's not one of the stronger teams in the league but maybe we learned something that will help us on down the line."

After the slow start, the Cats gained speed behind the pitching of righthander Morgan LeClair, who blanked Nickerson over the last two innings of the first game, then shutout the Panthers in the second game on a one-hit, 11 strikeout job. "Morgan was sharp and on top of it," said Katzenmeier. "There wasn't much to that game, just throwing the ball to Morgan and letting him go."

Two runs in the second gave the Cats a 2-0 lead. Danny LeClair singled and Mike Stump followed with a single. Kris Withrow broke a scoreless deadlock with a double down the line in left and Stump scored on Jeff Belden's base rap.

Two insurance runs crossed in the fourth on outfielder Mike Snow's single.

In the opener, Nickerson and MHS traded two, then three-run innings before the wheels came off for Mulvane with a six-run 4th inning for Nickerson.

Mulvane came back with two in the bottom of the 4th, then had runners on in each of the next three innings but couldn't make contact for a run. A golden opportunity in the 6th was killed when Mike Shook was thrown out at the plate trying to score on a passed ball and Brian Cusick was forced at second on a fly ball to right by Wes Moore. The Cats had two more baserunners in the 7th but the rally died.

Danny LeClair hammered a two-run homer in the first and Snow had a two-run single and Shook had an RBI single in the second.

Moore went 3-for-4 with one run scored and one RBI. Snow was 2-for-4

PREP BASEBALL Chisholm Trail League First Game

Nickerson	230 600 0-11 6
Mulvane	230 200 0- 7 12
Alan Schneider, Darren Riley 4, and Brent Berridge; Mike Snow, Mike Stump, Kyle Steadman 4, Jerrod Sorensen 5, Morgan LeClair 6, and Jeff Belden.	
HR-Danny LeClair (M).	

Second Game

Nickerson	000 00-0 1
Mulvane	020 2x-4 7
Skip White and Brent Berridge; Morgan LeClair and Jeff Belden.	

First Game

Wichita South	222 210 002-11 13
Mulvane	110 051 100- 9 10
Maril Adamson, Daren Utter 5, Jeff Troll 9, and Chad Sinclair; Brian Cusick, Curtis Hicks 2, Morgan LeClair and Jeff Belden.	
HR-Gary Ogden, Maril Adamson, Chris Dendurant (WS); Wes Moore (M).	

Second Game

Wichita South	002 201 1-5 10
Mulvane	000 002 0-2 2
Jeff Troll and Brian Steele; Jerrod Sorensen and Jarrod Young, Jeff Belden.	

and Shook went 2-for-3 to pace the Cat attack.

Katzenmeier's troops opened the season with a good performance against a solid team, Wichita South, the defending City League champion and the team that finished second in the 6A state tournament a year ago. The visiting Titans ran their record to 6-0 by sweeping the Cats, 11-9, in extra innings and 5-2.

"Wichita South will hit the ball as good as anybody in the city league," said Katzenmeier. "It would have been nice to split but we played well. Your first game, you always try to do a lot of learning. I think we made some mistakes early in the opener that gave them some runs. Otherwise, we might have won in regulation. Then in the second game, they threw their best pitcher."

In the opener, the Titans stormed out to an 8-2 lead by scoring two runs in each of the first four innings, but the Wildcats sprinted back into the game with a five-run 5th inning. Wes Moore worked a lead-off walk and took third on Mike Snow's base rap. Curtis Hicks walked, loading the bases and both Moore and Snow trotted to the plate on Danny LeClair's base hit. Walks to Mike Stump and Kris Withrow followed to fill the sacks again and Mike Shook and Brian Cusick both lifted sacrifice flies to score runs.

The Cats nearly won it in the bottom of the seventh when pinch-runner Jarrod Young scored on a passed ball and Withrow walked and went to second on a balk with only one out. But the MHS bats went silent and Wichita escaped with two more outs to send the game into two extra innings. South used two successful bunts and an error in the 9th to push across two runs to win it.

Moore homered in the 6th and scored twice and the sophomores LeClair and Stump both had a pair of hits to power the Cat offense.

In the nightcap, South's Jeff Troll spaced two hits and fanned 12 Wildcats to spell the difference. Mulvane's only runs for losing righthander Jerrod Sorensen came in the sixth when Snow singled and Hicks walked and both scored on an outfield error.