

Hot Bats Save Cold Day

When it's cold, there's nothing like a hot pick-me-up. Enter: Danny LeClair.

While the bench was shivering and wrapped in blankets, LeClair gave the Mulvane Wildcat baseballers a decidedly hot shot in the arm, hammering a three-run homer which ignited a 10-run fourth inning as the Wildcats won their fourth straight victory, 20-4, Monday afternoon, April 15, at Winfield.

The game against the Vikings was turned into a rout with three swings of the bat as the Cats improved their record to 4-3 after starting the year with three consecutive defeats. Each swing was a home run which travelled just a bit farther than the last.

LeClair's came after Wes Moore had walked and Curtis Hicks had swatted a base hit. Mike Stump followed by hammering a "Ma Bell" shot that's still ringing and Snow hit another tape-measure job with the bases full to conclude the rally.

"It took us a while to get started but we blew it up in the fourth, fifth and seventh innings," said Dave Katzenmeier, MHS head baseball coach. "Obviously, the coach is pleased. Anytime you score 20 runs, the coach can't be too upset. Still, we have to work hard. When you're up by a bunch, you still have to concentrate and execute, and we did and everything came out all right."

Mulvane's batters showered Winfield pitching with 18 hits, eight for extra bases behind the fine pitching of righthanded senior Brian Cusick. Cusick was on the hill for five innings before Kyle Steadman came in to tidy things up. The two scattered 10 hits and struck out 10 batters. They also were helped by a triple play in the final inning to end the game. Reese Brown started the triple play by snaring a sinking liner, stepped on first and fired to third to triple up a runner.

Back on hitting, Katzenmeier isn't surprised his veteran squad is giving the ball a ride. "We have 10 people who are hitting over .300, but I think we'll start seeing some better pitchers. I'm really pleased with the bottom end of the line-up. If they can keep it up, we're going to score a lot of runs."

Mulvane jumped on top early, taking a 4-0 lead in the first inning. Moore walked and Hicks reached on an error. LeClair pounded a double to score two, then scored on an infield out. Kris Withrow walked and after a stolen base

and passed ball, scored on Mike Shook's double.

The Cats will return to the Chisholm Trail League today (April 17) when they travel to Valley Center for a 4 p.m. doubleheader. Mulvane will be on the road again Monday, April 21, at Campus (Haysville) for a non-league doubleheader starting at 4.

Rose Hill was a "bonus" all the way around Thursday, April 10. Originally scheduled for a doubleheader at Rose Hill, the games were played in Mulvane and the Wildcats pushed their Chisholm Trail League record to 3-1 by routing the Rockets, 11-3 and 13-4.

"We couldn't get on their field because the sprinkling equipment got stuck on the field and soaked it, so we had to play here," said Katzenmeier. "We played a more dominating game, like we can. We cut down on a lot of defensive errors, the hitters hit the ball and our pitchers pitched well. The secret is maintaining that edge. It's not easy but you have to concentrate a lot to keep that sharp edge."

The run production was enough to make Katzenmeier smile a lot. "We had run production throughout the line-up," added the Mulvane mentor. "That's grounds for some good things. If we

PREP BASEBALL NON-LEAGUE

Mulvane	300 (10)50 0-20 18
Winfield	000 201 1- 4 10

Brian Cusick, Kyle Steadman 6, and Jeff Belden, Jarrod Young 5; Ed Vossen and Tony Bailey.
HR—Mike Stump, Danny LeClair, Mike Snow (M).

CHISHOLM TRAIL BASEBALL First Game

Mulvane	182 00-11 6
Rose Hill	200 10- 3 6

Curtis Hicks and Jarrod Young; Gerald Snell and Kendall Gammon.

Second Game

Mulvane	200 92-13 9
Rose Hill	000 30- 3 3

Jarrod Sorensen, Morgan LeClair 4, and Jarrod Young; Kendall Gammon, Eric Vonn 4, and Scott Dennis, Jeff Shirley 4.

keep getting the good production out of the tailend of the line-up, we're going to score some runs."

Katzenmeier also praised his staff-starters Curtis Hicks and Jarrod Sorensen and reliefer Morgan LeClair. Hicks picked up the complete-game victory in the opener, scattering six hits and Sorensen pitched well until running into trouble in the bottom of the fourth and LeClair mopped up. Sorensen didn't get up a hit until the 4th and the Sorensen-LeClair "team" gave up only three hits in a shortened ball game.

The Wildcats broke the first game open early, scoring eight times for a 9-2 lead in the second inning. Mike Shook

walked and Brian Cusick reached on a fielder's choice, both scoring. Wes Moore and Hicks both had bases-loaded walks and designated hitter slapped a two-run single. Mike Stump had a two-run double before Shook ended the rally with a run-scoring single.

A big 4th inning rally keyed the victory in the nightcap and gave Sorensen the win. Nine runs crossed the plate with Shook knocking in three runs with two hits, the second being a two-run triple, and Stump rapping two hits, knocking in a pair and scoring twice. Kris Withrow also had two hits and scored twice in the uprising.

Withrow finished with a 3-for-3 game and Stump was the only other Cat with more than one hit. Moore, Mike Snow, Stump and Withrow all scored twice.

"We need to keep beating league teams," stressed Katzenmeier, who would like to guide his MHS club into the CTL championship for a second year in a row. "When we scored 13 and 11 runs, it's going to be tough for us to lose. We played about our best games, played like we're capable of playing."

The Wildcats will meet Valley Center at 4 p.m. today (April 17) in the first of two games at Valley Center. Both are CTL affairs.