



Mulvane's Kris Withrow (17) scores under a high throw in league game against Goddard.

'Comeback' Middle Name, Cat Nine Takes Tourney

The "Comeback Kids" did their thing Tuesday, May 6, in the Chisholm Trail League Invitational Baseball Tournament and it spelled a tourney championship for MHS coach David Katzenmeier.

The Wildcats, playing in Benton, rallied with three runs in the top of the 7th inning to edge Augusta, 6-5, for the championship. Earlier in the day, the Cats were behind, 8-4, at one time but scored two times in the bottom of the last inning for a 9-8 winner over Valley Center.

"Both games were great ball games," said Katzenmeier. "In the championship, it was tremendous. We had our backs to the wall but wouldn't give in."

Mike Shook's one-out triple off the fence in left-centerfield drove in Danny LeClair and Kris Withrow and LeClair scored on a two-out, full count base hit to center by Brian Cusick, the winning pitcher.

In the bottom of the inning, third sacker Shay Cornejo made a diving catch of a bunt attempt but threw wildly to first in a double play attempt. However, Shook threw out the runner at third base from his rightfield post to kill an Oriole possibility.

In the semifinal, two were out before Curtis Hicks singled in successful pinch hitter Goeffrey Burris just before Mike Snow, who had walked, scored on an error to end the game.

The victories gave the Cats a 15-3 record overall and a 15-game winning streak.

The Wildcats opened their run at the tournament title Monday, May 5, on home turf by waxing Winfield, 10-0, in a five-inning contest before rain moved the remaining games to Benton.

Righthander Brian Cusick pitched his



finest game of the year, yielding only two hits and fanning five. "I know it was his smartest game of the season," added Katzenmeier. "He pitched smart, was always ahead in the count and kept the batters off-balance. Too, we played solid defense behind him."

The Cats blasted away for six runs in the second and topped things off with four more in the third. Highlights of the second were a two-run single by Jeff Belden, a sac fly by Danny LeClair and a bases-filled walk to force in a run to Snow.

The Wildcats set the stage for a Chisholm Trail League-clinching series at Circle later this month by rumbling past Goddard, 11-4, and 2-0 in a twinbill Thursday, May 1, in Mulvane.

It took Katzenmeier's bats a while to sing but they did sing in a 10-run fourth inning in the opener which blew apart a tight game. Trailing, 3-1, Mulvane sent 14 batters to the plate in the inning and made things easy for the righthanded starter, Hicks, who scattered six hits and went the distance.

Stump started the inning harmlessly enough with a lead-off single and Kris Withrow also singled. Mike Shook reached on a fielder's choice before Jeff Belden drilled a two-run double down the line in left. Cusick followed with an RBI hit in front of a walk to Moore. Snow and Hicks rapped one-run singled, and Danny LeClair singled and Stump walked. Withrow delivered another run and Shook ripped a bases-clearing double to left-centerfield

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BASEBALL INVITATIONAL Championship

Mulvane	110	100	3-6	10
Augusta	000	500	0-5	7
Curtis Hicks, Brian Cusick 4, Morgan LeClair 7, and Jeff Belden; Jim Emmitt, Trent Nesmith 5, and Galen Browning.				
HR-Terry Baxter and Jamie Evans (A).				

Semifinals

Valley Center	103	301	0-8	8
Mulvane	201	103	2-8	13
Brian Phipps and Sparky Anderson; Jerrod Sorensen, Morgan LeClair 4, and Jeff Belden.				
HR-Eric Burns, Brian Phipps and Sparky Anderson (VC).				

Augusta 8, Nickerson 2
Rose Hill 15, Circle 1

First Round

Winfield	000	00-	0	2
Mulvane	064	9x-	10	8
Kyle Bailey, Brad Valdois 3, and Wes Townsley, Bailey 3; Brian Cusick and Jeff Belden.				

Valley Center 10, Goddard 8
Nickerson 7, Rose Hill 0
Augusta 12, Circle 5

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE First Game

Goddard	003	10-	4	8
Mulvane	001	(10)x-	11	12
Neal Kerschen, Tim Davis 4, Justin Welner 4, John Koerner 4, and Lance Emerson; Curtis Hicks and Jeff Belden.				

Second Game

Goddard	000	00-	0	1
Mulvane	002	0x-	2	2
Chad Steward, Sean Fulton 3, and Lance Emerson; Morgan LeClair and Jeff Belden.				

for the final three runs.

In the second game, righthander Morgan LeClair had little trouble wrapping up another shutout. He fanned 10 in his five-inning stint and allowed only a fourth-inning single to right.

The Wildcats will travel to Benton Tuesday, May 13, for a 4 p.m. doubleheader against Circle's Thunderbirds. A sweep would wrap up at least a share of the loop title. Both Mulvane and Nickerson have only one loop loss. The Cats have two games to play and Nickerson (10-1) has one game to play.