

Baseballers March To State

Goal A Dream No More

Goals are made to be missed---but not this one. "Our No. 1 goal, my No. 1 goal, was to get to the state tournament. That's what we wanted to accomplish this year...and we did it."

The rest is history. Mulvane High School baseball wizard David Katzenmeier guided the Wildcats into the 4A-1A State Tournament Monday, May 19, but it was a tight fit. The Cats eked out a 4-1 verdict over Rose Hill in the opener, the lambasted the host Lions, 7-2, in the championship game at the 4A-1A Regional Baseball Tournament at Burden.

The double-dipper enabled the Wildcats to find a home in the state tournament Friday and Saturday, May 30-31, at Soden's Grove in Emporia along with seven other schools. Pairings will be announced in the next Mulvane News.

It will be Mulvane's third trip to the state tournament in the five years since baseball was re-introduced at MHS. The 1982 squad went to the state meet,

BURDEN CLASS 4A-1A REGIONAL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP			
Central	000	000	2-2 3
Mulvane	210	400	x-7 7
Kenny Tripplett and Wayne Gottatline; Curtis Hicks and Jeff Belden.			
FIRST ROUND			
Mulvane	000	020	2-4 4
Rose Hill	000	010	0-1 2
Brian Cusick, Morgan LeClair 5, and Jeff Belden; Steve Swaney and Scott Dennis.			

as did the 1985 squad. All have been ousted in the opening game.

"We've been successful the last two years and gone to the state but there's been some outstanding talent," admitted Katzenmeier. "I like to think of it as two good things coming together at the same time, outstanding kids and good talent."

A state trip almost failed to materialize as Rose Hill senior Steve Swaney handcuffed Mulvane in the first game most of the way. He was locked in a duel of righthanders with Mulvane's Brian Cusick, who spaced only two hits over his four-plus innings of work before

reliever Morgan LeClair hung out his shingle on the mound.

However, the Cats broke through for two runs in the top of the 5th when both Mike Snow and Curtis Hicks walked. A passed ball put the runners at second and third and both scored when sophomore designated hitter Dan LeClair blooped a single to right.

Mulvane added two insurance runs for Morgan LeClair, who notched another save, in the seventh. Mike Stump walked, pinch runner Jarrod Young stole second and Kris Withrow joined him on the bases with a walk. Mike Shook also walked to make things a bit tight on the base paths and Morgan LeClair followed with a single to left-center to score two runs.

"I guess you can attribute this one to Mr. and Mrs. LeClair," chuckled Katzenmeier, "because Danny had two RBIs and Morgan the other two. I knew Rose Hill from Day 1, was going to be tough. They're better than their record shows. Swaney had us on the

ropes all day."

The Mulvane victory eliminated the Rockets with a 5-17 record for the season. Mulvane finished the job in the nightcap against Central, ending the Lions' year at 12-9 and running Mulvane streak to 19 games in a row since opening the season with three consecutive losses.

Wes Moore opened that game by singling and he scored when Snow doubled. Snow then came around on Mike Stump's base rap.

Mulvane made it 3-0 in their second when Jeff Belden walked and scored on a sacrifice fly by Snow. Four more in the 4th made it just a question of getting packed for Emporia. Belden again started the damage with a walk and Cusick reached after striking out but raced to first on a passed ball. Moore lined a double to score one, Snow had another sac fly for No. 2. Hicks walked and Danny LeClair busted a sac fly which made the score 6-0. The final run came in on Mike Stump's double.