



MHS baseballers were all smiles after receiving 4A-1A state title trophy Saturday at Emporia

**Waltz In Finale, 8-0**

# State Tournament No Picnic For Others; Wildcats State Champs

EMPORIA--Picnic time was over for Mulvane High School baseball coach David Katzenmeier and his Wildcat baseball team. They were at Sodens Grove Friday and Saturday on urgent matters.

Back off, man, they are baseball players.

"We kept telling the players all week long that we weren't going up to Emporia for a picnic and I think all the team members had only one thought in mind," said Katzenmeier.

State Championship. Those words became Mulvane's battle cry and the Wildcats appeared in a world of their own as they easily marched through the eight-team field Friday and Saturday, May 30-31, to capture the 4A-1A state title.

The Wildcats, making their third appearance in the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) 4A-1A State Tournament, romped to three wins and the Cat mound corps posted three consecutive shutouts. Mulvane ripped Rossville, 8-0, for the state championship.

Mulvane opened the tournament Friday, May 30, by swamping Augusta, 10-0, in a five-inning game. In the semifinal, Mulvane clobbered defending 4A-1A champ, Baxter Springs, 9-0. "It feels great," said Katzenmeier. "We did what we wanted to do. We went up there on a mission and accomplished it. We tried to concentrate on that first game against Augusta because we had to beat them a fourth time. After that, we felt like we had the pitching staff to go all the way."

And that pitching came through in flying colors. Morgan LeClair fired a one-hit, one-walk job at the Orioles in

KSHSAA CLASS 4A-1A STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT AT SODEN'S GROVE-EMPORIA			
Championship			
Mulvane	122 201 0-8 18		
Rossville	000 000 0-0 3		
Brian Cusick and Jeff Belden; Brad Hase, Kevin Cowan 3, Brian Sage 7, and Cury Graves, Hase 3.			
Third Place			
Thomas More Prep 7, Baxter Springs 5			
Semifinals			
Mulvane	003 600 0-9 8		
Baxter Springs	000 000 0-0 5		
Curtis Hicks and Jeff Belden; Jodie Adams, Rusty Spence 4, and David Edmundson.			
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Rossville 10, Thomas More Prep 7			
First Round			
Augusta	000 00- 0 1		
Mulvane	513 01-10 10		
Trent Nesmith, James Emmitt 1, and Galen Browning; Morgan LeClair and Jeff Belden.			
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Rossville 3, Sedan 2			
Thomas More Prep 9, Pittsburg-Colgan 5			
Baxter Springs 9, Lansing 5			

the opener, striking out nine. Curtis Hicks came on with his best game of the year, a five-hitter against Baxter Springs. He fanned six and walked no batters. Brian Cusick nailed things down in the championship by limiting Rossville to four hits. Cusick walked two.

"Our pitching really jelled," said Katzenmeier. "Each pitcher had a tremendous game and that made it easy."

Something else that made it easy was the hitting by Mulvane, and the entire line-up joined in the fun. "We just put three games together," admitted Katzenmeier. "Sixteen hits in the finale shows you that. Everybody played well. Our pitchers did a heck of a job, our defense was outstanding (one error) and our hitters really swung the bat. All three important aspects of baseball came together at the same time. When you do that, you're going to get good

results."

The trio of victories also enabled the Cats to end the year with 22 straight victories and a 22-3 record.

The Cats started slowly against Rossville, a team which has been state runner-up two years in a row. Senior standout Mike Snow singled, took second on a ground out, third on a balk and scored when designated hitter Danny LeClair connected on a base hit.

Another senior, Kris Withrow, kept Mulvane's shutout string alive when he gunned down a Bulldog runner attempting to score from second on a single in the bottom of the first inning. The Wildcats came back with two runs in each of the next two innings with Jeff Belden and Snow hitting RBI singles in the 2nd and Mike Shook drilling a two-run single in the third, scoring Mike Stump and Withrow who had doubled off the fence in right-centerfield.

Mulvane made it 7-0 on RBI hits by Danny LeClair and Shook in the 4th to assure the big state title trophy would be sitting in Mulvane.

A six-run fourth after two were out broke open a 3-0 game in the semifinal as MHS handed Baxter Springs only its second loss of the year--it's only other defeat came mid-year in an 11-7 loss to Pittsburg-Colgan.

Wes Moore, Snow and Danny LeClair had RBI hits in the second. Shook led off the 3rd with a solid hit and Jeff Belden walked. Moore reach base when his hit struck Belden, who was out. Snow socked his second double to score both Shook and Moore, then scored on an error, Hicks reaching first. Walks followed to Danny LeClair and Mike Stump before Withrow lashed a two-run



single off the fence Shook's single scoring Stump closed out the rally.

"That Hicks pitched a super game," praised Baxter coach Don Karnes. "It was the best-pitched game against us all year long."

In the first round game, the Cats disposed of Chisholm Trail League sister Augusta for the fourth time this season by jolting the Orioles for five runs before the game was barely more than 15 minutes old.

Five walks and a two-run double by Withrow--he must specialize in doubles --and a single by Snow made Katzmeier's day.

The Wildcats made it 9-0 with one in the second and three more in the third to give Morgan LeClair clear sailing. Hicks scored on a passed ball after walking in the second inning, and in the third, Snow knocked in one run with a single and Danny LeClair drove home the other two on a base hit.

"The key, I felt, was getting out in front quickly against Augusta," said Katzenmeier, "and we did. Their pitcher came out a little tight and that'll happen. You're talking about state tournament."

The state championship ended the athletic year at MHS on a high. The Mulvane football team made it to the semifinals before being eliminated, and the Cat basketball team also qualified for the state meet.

## Third Time A Charm For MHS

# Mulvane Pitchers Pile Up State Goose Eggs

EMPORIA--Mulvane High School tore a page from an old baseball axiom that says you can't lose a game if the other team doesn't score.

The Wildcats made their third appearance a dilly in the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Class 4A-1A State Baseball Tournament here Friday and Saturday, May 30-31. Coach David Katzenmeier's Cats on the mound fired zeroes for two days and the Mulvane bats fired anything but blanks as Mulvane dominated the competition to take the state championship.

Three straight shutouts were hurled and, I'll be darn, three straight victories. That old axiom really works. The Wildcats slammed out an 8-0 victory over Rossville for the championship trophy, dumped defending champ Baxter Springs, 9-0, in the semifinals and opened the tourney by knocking Augusta for a 10-0 loop.

"That's got to be a record--three straight shutouts," said Katzenmeier. "That's got to be a record because you can't do much better than that. Our staff just peaked at the right time. Those three were the key to it, and all year long those three and help from others have made it possible."

Junior Morgan LeClair started things by tossing a one-hitter at Augusta Friday. Another junior, Curtis Hicks, took the baton against Baxter Springs and he blanked 'em on a five-hitter. Senior Brian Cusick wasn't to be out-done, firing a three-hit shutout at

Rossville in the title game.

But give Kris Withrow credit, too. He saved that string with his arm. With a runner at second and two out in the first inning against Rossville, Withrow scooped up a single to leftfield and cut the runner down at the plate with a picture-perfect throw to catcher Jeff Belden, who tagged the potential scorer out.

The entire tournament was a total showcase for Mulvane High School. Not only did the Wildcat baseballers put on some kind of display hitting, fielding and pitching, but the Wildcat Booster Club even got into the act.

Booster club president Joe Belden has become the "Hot Dog King" to his subjects. Belden and the other booster officers organized a Mulvane hot dog feed inbetween games Saturday. The Cats waxed Baxter Springs, then had a three-to-four hour layoff before polishing off the Bulldogs from Rossville, a 3A school located west of Topeka.

That was just enough time for the 110-some Mulvane fans to hover around the cooker and get their fill of hot dogs, potato chips, pop and candy bars compliments of the Wildcat Booster Club.

The Bulldogs were no match for Katz' Cats, both physically and from a talent standpoint. Rossville Coach Mick Keller, whose 3A Bulldogs compiled a 8-13 record this season and knocked off

No. 1 seeded and previously unbeaten Sedan, 3-2, in the opening round, has a roster of only one senior, Kevin Cowan, and six juniors and sophomores. He has started three-to-four freshmen all season long.

"We had a senior-dominated team last year (when Rossville was also runner-up in the state tournament)," said Keller. "That kept some of the younger kids from going out. The senior we have has been the only one in his class all the way up the ladder. He was the only sophomore, the only junior and now the only senior but he's been our ace for three years."

Keller, who graduated from Rossville High and has been there coaching the last six years, was most happy to get out of regional play, considering his club posted a 4-12 record in the regular season. "We beat St. Mary's in the regional first round, then we got a one-hitter from Cowan and beat a tough Silver Lake team, 8-3, in the championship game."

Probably the most celebrated hurler in the entire field of eight state tournament teams was Baxter Springs' Jeff Karnes, a senior righthander who is the son of Lion coach Don Karnes. The younger Karnes, who hurled the Lions to a 9-5 victory in the opener against Lansing, posted a 2-0 career record in his first two years. His only year of varsity pitching was last year, when he went 1-0 with a 2.25 ERA in the state tournament. Last year, Karnes

helped pitch the Lions to the 4A-1A state championship.

He also hammered two homers this year during the state tournament and finished the season with 10 home runs. He hit .550 for the season and slapped two harmless singles off Hicks Saturday.

Mulvane's bats were "singing" in the tournament. The Cats rapped 34 hits in the three-game swing. The team's top hitter was centerfielder Mike Snow, who hammered seven hits. Three other Cats, sophomore Danny LeClair, Kris Withrow and Mike Shook, each had five hits.

Snow also topped the team with six runs scored. Wes Moore and Curtis Hicks each scored four times.

Both Mulvane and Baxter Springs had something in common. Both have had baseball at the high school level just a few years. Mulvane started its high school ball program in 1982 and the Wildcats have made it into the "Elite Eight" three times--1982, 1985 and 1986.

Baxter Springs has had baseball only six years but four of those years have resulted in the state tournament. The Lions won it all last year and finished fourth one year.

This year's team, the first ever MHS state champion, was coached by Don Karnes in the first round by Chase County