

Cat Boys Split Opener

It wasn't something you're going to write home about but Mulvane High School baseball coach David Katzenmeier isn't complaining.

The 4A state champion Mulvane Wildcats started their season Monday, April 6, at Nickerson and came away with a doubleheader split. The host Panthers took the first game, 5-3, but the Wildcats were in charge in the nightcap, 3-2, in the Chisholm Trail League games.

"I think we still have some key players who are still getting ready," admitted Katzenmeier. "The kids who were out for basketball, which is my whole front-line staff, were two weeks late, then we had spring break. We're a little behind in our hitting, too. If it would have been for some key defensive plays, we could have started like we did last year."

Mulvane was slow off the mark in 1986, losing three of their first four games before charging to the state championship. The defensive help came in the second game when the Cats threw out one runner at third base, then threw out another runner at the plate after an overthrow at third.

The Cats never could get uncorked in the opener. The Panthers broke out of a 2-1 contest with three runs in the bottom of the sixth. Mulvane's only runs came in the second when Brian Schmidt walked and later scored on an error and in the fifth when Sean Gillespie walked and scored on Shay Cornejo's RBI base knock.

Things warmed up for the Cat bats in the nightcap, but not much. Brian Unruh opened the game by singling and Cornejo followed with a base rap. Unruh scored when Jarrod Young grounded

out and Morgan LeClair singled for the second run.

Morgan LeClair was in command on the hill until the fourth inning when he gave up a run, then survived fifth-inning woes to notch the complete-game win. The Wildcats made it 3-1 in the top of the fifth when Rob Whitmer scored the eventual winning run after a base hit. He scored on Curtis Hicks' base hit.

Mulvane's next action will be today (April 9) when Rose Hill comes to town for another Chisholm Trail League doubleheader. The Rockets are 4-1.



First Game

Mulvane	010 010 0--2 0
Nickerson	011 003 x--5 7
Shay Cornejo, Curtis Hicks 3, and Jarrod Young, Riley and Berridge	

Second Game

Mulvane	200 01--3 5
Nickerson	170 11--2 3
Morgan LeClair and Jarrod young, Brian Schmidt 4, Trippie and Berridge	