

# One Inning Tells CTL Tale

One inning tells the story of the whole tournament for Mulvane High School's baseball squad. The Wildcats didn't repeat as the Chisholm Trail League baseball champs because of one inning.

Augusta scored seven times in the fifth inning to break open a tight game and roll to an 11-1 verdict Saturday, May 9, in the Chisholm Trail League championship game.

Two days earlier, Mulvane had swept into the title tilt by clipping Goddard, the regular season CTL champs, 6-2, while Augusta edged Nickerson, 3-2. Nickerson won third place by blasting Goddard, 9-1, while Valley Center took fifth by downing Rose Hill, 5-3. In the game for seventh place, Circle trounced Andover, 11-2.

The tournament was played at two sites, Floyd Carver Field in Mulvane and at Circle.

"The teams were pretty evenly matched this year," said MHS coach David Katzenmeier. "The tournament was a good time to get rolling, I felt, but we had trouble in the third game after we played some pretty good baseball in the first two.

"It just got down to one bad inning. They scored seven and that pretty much sums up the championship game. We

## CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Augusta	100 071 2 11 13
Mulvane	100 000 0-1 3
Chris Williams and Terry Baxter, Morgan LeClair, and Brian Schmidt	
FR--Shay Cornejo (M)	

### THIRD PLACE

Nickerson 9, Goddard 1

### FIFTH PLACE

Valley Center 5, Rose Hill 3

### SEVENTH PLACE

Circle 11, Andover 2

### SEMIFINALS

Mulvane	000 211 2-6 12
Goddard	000 002 0-2 3
Shay Cornejo and Chris Caywood, Steward and Emerson	

...

Augusta 3, Nickerson 2  
Valley Center 10, Andover 3  
Rose Hill 9, Circle 8

### FIRST ROUND

Valley Center	000 020 100-3 6
Mulvane	000 300 101-4 9
Phipps, Cowel, 7 and Spike Anderson; Kyle Steadman, Morgan LeClair 5, and Chris Caywood	

...

Goddard 6, Andover 3  
Nickerson 5, Circle 1  
Augusta 8, Rose Hill 1

came into it with two real good games where I felt our mental approach was very good, the way I like to see it, but we started off the bad inning with an error and that's all they needed to spark them."

Augusta, which finished third in the CTL regular season, and the Cats, the No. 4 finisher, were locked in a 1-1

struggle at that point. Both teams scored once in the first inning, Mulvane on a lead-off homer by junior Shay Cornejo.

In the fifth, however, Morgan LeClair, MHS's No. 1 hurler, ran into a snag after the first batter reached on an error. The next batter tried to sacrifice the runner over but the ball hung on the line and went for a base hit. Two walks scored one and a two-run single finished off LeClair.

"We had six runners stranded in the first four innings and that usually comes back to haunt you," said Katzenmeier. "If we could have punched in a few runs, it would have been different, especially attitude-wise. If you leave people on base, though, it usually comes back to catch up with you and that's what it did."

After Cornejo's homer, Curtis Hicks walked but died at third. John Melick and Sean Gillespie walked in the second inning but were left stranded in the second. M. LeClair singled to lead off the fourth, and Mulvane went on to jam the sacks when Melick and Gillespie walked again but the rally fizzled.

The Wildcats turned back Goddard's Lions with a solid game Thursday, May 7, on home ground behind an outstanding mound performance by Cornejo. "Shay pitched about as good a game as

he could," praised Katzenmeier. "That was by far his best of the season, it was like he was pitching a clinic out there."

Cornejo baffled the Lions on three hits and struck out 17, a career-high. Two of his three walks led to Goddard's only two runs in the sixth inning but by that time, the Cats had built up a 4-0 lead.

Mulvane scored twice in the fourth to break up a scoreless deadlock. Dan LeClair singled up the middle and Kyle Steadman singled him to third. Catcher Chris Caywood dropped a single to right-centerfield to score one run and Rob Whitmer singled in Steadman.

Two errors led to another cat run in the fifth and a base knock by Cornejo drove in Whitmer, who had singled, to make it 4-0. Mulvane's other two runs came in the top of the seventh when M. LeClair singled and scored on D. LeClair's double. Steadman's third base hit delivered D. LeClair to the plate.

The Cats won a thriller in the opening game of the tournament. They won it in the second extra inning when Whitmer singled to left and went to third on a base knock by Jarrod Young. Gillespie walked to fill the sacks with none out before Cornejo drilled a base hit to end the game.