

Wildcats Upset In Regional

Baseball Season Ends With One Swing

The Mulvane High School baseball season was reduced to one swing of the bat Wednesday, May 20, in the Central of Burden 4A-1A Regional Baseball Tournament.

One swing of the bat and the season's over.

The 4A-1A state champions from Mulvane won't be going back to defend their title next weekend after the host Central team clipped the Wildcats, 5-2, in the regional championship game Wednesday.

The Cats had opened the regional by pounding Douglass, 16-2, and Central eliminated Rose Hill, 15-9, earlier

CENTRAL CLASS 4A-1A REGIONAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Mulvane	000 010 1--2 7
Central	000 005 x--5 3
Morgan LeClair and Chris Caywood; Liebaw and Brooks.	
HR--Curtis Hicks (M), Brooks (C)	
Semifinals	
Central 15	Rose Hill 9
Mulvane 16	Douglass 2

Wednesday in a rain-delayed semifinal.

The victory evens Central's record at 10-10 and sends the Cardinals into the first round of the 4A-1A State Tournament at Soden's Grove in Emporia Friday, May 29.

"We would have liked to gone back,

CHISHOLM TRAIL LEAGUE FINAL BASEBALL STANDINGS

Team	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
x-Goddard	11	3	12	4
Nickerson	10	4	13	5
Augusta	9	5	17	5
Mulvane	8	6	11	10
Valley Center	7	7	9	8
Rose Hill	5	9	9	12
Circle	5	9	8	9
Andover	1	13	1	17

x--won CTL championship

especially since we won it last year," said Mulvane coach Dave Katzenmeier. "We wanted to get back up there and defend that championship, that was our goal all year long, to get another shot, but we came up one swing of the bat short."

Central won the game by breaking through against Mulvane ace right-hander Morgan LeClair for five runs in the sixth inning. A grand slam homer by Kelly Brooks with none out snapped a 1-1 tie and sent Central to Emporia. Going into that fateful inning, LeClair had fanned 10 consecutive batters. He finished with a three-hitter and struck out 15, including Brooks twice.

"Mo was just rolling along, pitching some good baseball and their No. 9 hitter got a dink single and that kind of started things off," said Katzenmeier. "He was really rolling along but I guess that kind of broke his concentration a little. Brooks really had a pop out but it got up into the wind--it was blowing out to rightfield. It's just one of those

things. It's not like he poked it 380 feet, it was basically a pop fly that got into the wind and went over a short fence. It happens."

Mulvane threatened in nearly every inning but could only score in the top of the fifth. Kyle Steadman singled and stole two bases before Dan LeClair's base hit broke a scoreless deadlock.

The Cats, who ended the year with an 11-10 record, threatened in the first when Steadman singled and LeClair reached on an error but both died on base. Chris Caywood reached on a second-inning error but was left stranded, as were Curtis Hicks, D. LeClair and M. LeClair in the third. Caywood's single was wasted in the sixth.

Mulvane tried to rally in the seventh inning but starting with two ground outs hurt the cause. Hicks popped a homer over the centerfield wall and D. LeClair walked but that was all she wrote as M. LeClair struck out to end the game.

"It's a disappointing way to end it," admitted the Cat skipper. "If we could have scored some runs early it may have been different, but we never could get much going. They threw a little sophomore lefthander at us and he was tough. I thought the way Morgan was pitching that one run was going to be enough but the one big inning really hurt. You should be able to score some runs in that park because of the short fence.

"I guess that's what makes it so sad.

We had been looking good and had the right people in the right spots but one swing of the bat ended it. I don't really mind playing on that small field but in Mulvane, that grand slam is a fly out easy. That's the game of baseball, though."