

One Pitch Makes Difference At State

EMPORIA-- One pitch that got up. That's the story of the Mulvane High School appearance Friday night, May 27, in the Class 4A-1A State Baseball Tournament here at Sodens Grove.

It also was a story of seven innings of scratching and clawing by Coach David Katzenmeier's Wildcats before Sedan's No. 1 seeded Blue Devils were able to subdue the underdog Wildcats, 8-7, in the opening round of the state tournament.

Sedan went on to take fourth. Kansas City Piper had little trouble bruising the competition. The Piper Pirates bombed Augusta, 19-4, in the championship game Saturday, May 28. Augusta topped Sedan, 10-4, in the game for third place.

Other opening round games found Piper dropping Silver Lake, 12-2, Nickerson eliminating Pittsburg Colgan, 8-3, and Augusta stopping Riverton, 7-5. Piper edged Nickerson, 5-4, to march into the championship game and Augusta handed Sedan its first loss of the year, a 10-4 drubbing.

The Cats were on their heels almost from the beginning. After a scoreless first two innings, the Blue Devils roughed up Mulvane righthander Shay Cornejo for five runs in the third inning, including a grand slam by shortstop Brad Dyer.

"That grand slam got us," admitted Katzenmeier, who guided MHS to the state title two years ago. "It hurt us. We came back and battled, though. I think if we could have gotten that one extra run to tie it up, we could have gotten them, but we never could. The kids really showed some class, though, battling like they did after being down, 5-0 and coming back to make a game of it."

The Wildcats didn't have much offense until the fourth inning when sophomore Scott Young singled leading off the fourth. However, Donnie Holman foul-

CLASS 4-A-1A STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT AT EMPORIA'S SODENS GROVE First Round

Mulvane 000 104 2-7 9
Sedan 005 102 x-8 8
Shay Cornejo and Chad Phipps; Chuck Gardner,
Matt Glynn 6, and Doug Miller.
HR--Brad Dyer, grand slam, (3).

Kansas City Piper 12, Silver Lake 2
Nickerson 8, Pittsburg Colgan 3
Augusta 7, Riverton 5

Semifinals
Kansas City Piper 5, Nickerson 4
Augusta 10, Sedan 4

Championship
Kansas City Piper 19, Augusta 4
Third Place
Nickerson 5, Sedan 2

ed out and Cornejo popped out before Dan LeClair hit one to short and the throw to first went wild. Young, going into third base, was held up by the third baseman and the officials spotted the infraction and waved him home for the first run.

Mulvane scored four more in the top of the sixth but still trailed, 6-5, after three errors enabled Sedan to post one run in the bottom of the fourth. Young again ignited the rally with a no-out walk. Holman walked and both moved up on a balk with the Sedan pitcher started to throw to first but nobody was there. Cornejo followed with a two-run single to right-centerfield. LeClair then drilled a single to right and Cornejo scored with Sedan's righfielder tried to gun him down at third but the throw was errant. Sean Gillespie followed with the Cats third straight single to right, then took second when the Blue Devils tried to get LeClair at home. After two strikeouts, Jeff Lucas reached on an infield high hopper, then stole second but sophomore Bruce Brashear tapped back to the pitcher, leaving runners at second and third.

Sedan came back with two more unearned runs in the sixth before Mulvane countered again. The Wildcats scored twice in the seventh and had,

runners at second and third with only one out but couldn't tie it up. Young walked again to start the inning. Cornejo singled and LeClair singled in Young. Gillespie chopped an infield squibber to fill the bases before a wild pitch enabled Cornejo to score and moving LeClair to third and Gillespie to second. However the last two Wildcats couldn't plate the tying runner.

"We had our chances and didn't do it," said Katzenmeier. "Just about anything would have scored the run in the seventh but we didn't get the job done."

Errors really hurt the MHS hopes. Mulvane made six during the game and also gave up six stolen bases. "We made some errors that hurt us to a degree, but we also haven't had a sparkling defense all year," said Katzenmeier. "At times, we can make great plays and at times we don't make the plays. We made some errors but look at Sean Gillespie making a couple great plays out there in left. He really made two nice running catches."

Cornejo went the distance and took the loss on the hill, but he finished his prep career in a blaze of glory, too, rapping three hits and knocking in three runs. Scott Young had a hit and scored three times and both LeClair and Gillespie had a pair of hits.

The game marked Mulvane's fifth appearance at the state tournament and four of those times, the Cats have been eliminated in the opening game. That fifth time, in 1986, Mulvane went all the way, taking the state title.



Mulvane's Shay Cornejo, Dan LeClair and Scott Young in state summit meeting

