A late offensive explosion propelled the Port Washington softball team to a 14-4 win in a North Shore Conference game Monday.

The host Pirates trailed Whitefish Bay, 4-0, after four innings but broke loose for six runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Port then ended the game on a 10-run mercy rule by scoring eight times in the sixth.

The Pirates finished with nine hits and were helped by four Bay errors.

Leading Port at the plate were Ali Bichler, who went 2-for-4 with three RBI, and Mikayla Hilton, who was 2-for-5 with two RBI. Celia Van Pietersom was 1-for-3 and drove in three runs.

Bichler also pitched a complete game for the win. She gave up eight hits, struck out four and walked none.

The win improved the Pirates to 2-1 in NSC play and 3-1 overall.

Grafton 5, Nicolet 3

The host Black Hawks overcame an early deficit to score their first win of the season in a North Shore Conference game Monday.

Grafton fell behind, 2-0, in the first inning but slowly rallied, scoring one run in the second and two runs apiece in the fourth and fifth.

Amanda Hunt pitched a complete game for the victory. She allowed just three hits, struck out 12 and walked three.

The Hawks' offensive leaders were Lauren Lennon and Amber Tanski, who were each 2-for-3. Lennon had a double and a triple, and Tanski scored twice.

The win improved Grafton to 1-3 overall and 1-2 in league play.

Image Information: PORT WASHINGTON'S Mikayla Hilton tried to avoid a tag from a Whitefish Bay infielder by sliding into first base during a rundown in a North Shore Conference game Monday. Host Port overcame a 4-0 deficit to secure a 14-4 win. Photo by Sam Arendt