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Porous defense fails to keep softball team from rallying for 19-9 victory

Persistent offense allowed the Port Washington High School softball team to withstand a shaky defensive effort last Friday.

Despite committing 11 errors, the Pirates hammered their way past Campbellsport, 19-9, in a nonconference makeup game called after five innings.

Port's fielding woes helped the Cougars score six runs in the second inning and hold an 8-4 lead after three frames.

However, the Pirates erupted for 10 runs in the top of the fourth and never trailed again. They scored in every inning, capped by a five-run outburst in the fifth.

Port finished with 15 hits and was aided by seven Campbellsport errors.

"It was ugly in the first few innings, but things settled down after that," Port coach Steve Schmidt said.

Stephanie Volesky led the Pirates with a 3-for-5 effort at the plate. Teammates Brianna Krejci, Ali Bichler and Mikayla Hilton each had two hits.

Bichler, a senior, pitched a complete game for the win. She allowed eight hits, struck out one batter and walked none.

The victory improved Port to 6-3 overall.

Port was scheduled to host Milwaukee Lutheran in a North Shore Conference game May 3, but rain postponed the contest until 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9.

Also this week, the Pirates were scheduled to face Homestead on Monday (see related story)

and Nicolet on Tuesday and travel to Whitefish Bay for a 4:30 p.m. game Thursday.

West Bend West 10, Grafton 2

The host Black Hawks fell victim to a free-swinging foe in a nonconference loss last Friday.

West collected 15 hits and steadily pulled away by scoring in six of seven innings.

“They hit the ball really well, and we couldn’t score runs when we had people on base,” Grafton coach Ken Hunt said.

Erica Schuelke provided most of the offensive punch for the Spartans, going 4-for-5 with a homer and two doubles. Three other West players each had two hits.

Grafton scored single runs in the first and third innings on RBI hits by Amanda Hunt and Sheena Croatt.

After loading the bases in the third, the Hawks had runners on second and third bases in the next two innings but failed to score.

Amanda Hunt and Lauren Lennon each went 3-for-4, and Croatt was 2-for-4.

The loss dropped Grafton’s overall record to 3-6.

This week, the Hawks resumed North Shore Conference play with games against Germantown on Monday (see related story) and Homestead on Tuesday and will play a 4:30 p.m. road game against Nicolet on Thursday.

On Saturday, Grafton will host the annual Black Hawk Invitational at 10 a.m. The four-team field will also include Brookfield Central, Kettle Moraine and Racine Case.

Port Washington 5, Grafton 4

A two-run rally in the seventh inning lifted the Pirates to a conference road win May 1.

Port trailed, 4-3, entering the final frame. After Hilton walked and moved to second base on a ground out, she scored the tying run on a double by Volesky.

Volesky came home on a throwing error.

In the bottom of the seventh, Grafton put runners on first and third with two outs. However, third-baseman Kelsey Braam fielded a hard-hit grounder and made the throw to first base for the final out.

Grafton held a 3-2 lead after three innings. Port scored twice in the fourth, but the Hawks moved back ahead after getting one run in both the fourth and fifth.

Bichler pitched the first four innings and the last one for the win, with Jill VandeBoom working two innings in relief. Amanda Hunt took the loss despite a complete-game effort.

Celia Van Pietersom went 2-for-3 for the Pirates, who improved to 4-3 in NSC play.

Grafton, which fell to 3-4 in the conference, was led by Taylor Thiede's 2-for-4 performance.

Image Information: PORT WASHINGTON third baseman Kelsey Braam applied the tag on Grafton's Taylor Thiede during a close play in a North Shore Conference softball game last Friday. Photo by Sam Arendt