

Fronczak, Plimpton spark South softball to 6-0 start

Williamsville South senior catcher and tri-captain Lisa Fronczak has provided the offense for the Lady Billies, who have started the 2007 season 6-0.

Fronczak, an All-ECIC First Team as a sophomore and junior, is putting up All-Western New York numbers. Fronczak currently has eight hits in 16 at-bats for a .500 average and has played flawless behind the plate.

While Fronczak has supplied the offense, senior tri-captain Chelsea Plimpton has been leading the defense. The two-time All-American and reigning New York State Class "A" Player of the Year has been outstanding on the mound. In six games, she's 6-0, thrown four shutouts and 90 strikeouts for an average of 15 per game. She's also recorded games of 18 and 19 strikeouts.

Other top offensive players during the team's great start has been junior tri-captain Lauren Falzone, a returning All-ECIC First Team player with seven hits in 20 at-bats for a .356 average, Carolyn Schaus at .388 (7 for 18), and Sam Strapason at .333.

South opened the week with an 8-0 win over Williamsville East on Monday, April 23. The Lady Billies recorded 11 hits.

Fronczak led the South batters with a 3 for 4 day, including a monster three-run home run in a six-run third inning that also plated Falzone, who singled, and Gerlach,

who reached base on an error. A Strapason double plated two additional runs. Strapason scored on an error.

Schaus added a long home run in the fifth.

Falzone led off the game with a single, followed by a Gerlach sacrifice that moved Falzone to second base. A Plimpton RBI single plated Falzone. East pitcher Kelly Rusin retired the next three batters in the second. She scattered only two hits and struck out two over the last three innings.

Plimpton struck out the first 12 batters and finished with 19. She tossed a one-hitter. Bridget Steele tripled in the top of the fourth for East's only hit. Jessica Windnagle walked.

"We did not play good defense against a team we needed to have a perfect game," said East coach Ron Schumacher.

South's second game of the week was on Tuesday, April 24 and for first place in ECIC Division III with 3-0 Iroquois. The Lady Billies recorded its 51st straight league game win with a 1-0 victory.

In the fourth, Strapason doubled over the Iroquois center fielder's head to score Schaus from first for the only run of the game. Additional hits were recorded by Falzone and Stephanie Shahin.

Plimpton fired a one-hitter and struck out 12.

South has league games with Amherst, Iroquois and West Seneca East this week before heading to the Depew Tournament on Saturday where they have won the last four years.

East's other game played last week was a 13-5 loss on Friday against West Seneca East. The Lady Flames scored in the bottom of the first when Steele, led off with a walk, Rachelle Arenos sacrificed her to second and Taylor Klun singled her home.

West Seneca East scored three runs in the top of the third on a combination of three hits, a walk, and an error. Two more runs were scored in the top of the fifth. Rusin replaced starting pitcher Karen Kingsley in the top of the sixth but West Seneca East hit off her badly and combined with three errors in the field, allowed six runs to score.

East tried to rally in the bottom of the sixth. Freshman Kelly McNamara walked and Chelsea Horner tripled her home. A Rusin ground out to second scored Horner. Kingsley singled and advanced to third on Steele's single. Arenos then singled home Kingsley and Steele.

With Rusin struggling at the plate, Kingsley returned to the mound in the seventh but West Seneca East added two insurance runs.

East (1-3, 2-3) plays a double header at Amherst starting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2.

Williamsville North evens division record at 3-3

The Williamsville North softball team evened their division record at 3-3 with two league wins this past week.

The Lady Spartans defeated Orchard Park on Monday, 7-1, and defeated last year's Section VI champions, West Seneca West, 4-2, on Tuesday, April 24. Mother Nature continued to rule the spring sports season as league games against Lancaster and Jamestown were rained out.

The Lady Spartans opened a 3-0 lead on Orchard Park in the third inning. Morgan McDowell and Krissy Flierl had back-to-back singles to start the inning. Lauren O'Brien followed with an RBI single to center, scoring McDowell and advancing Flierl to third. Kaitlyn McNally sacrificed O'Brien to second and both girls scored on a line drive single by Tricia Kennery.

North also tacked three more

runs in the sixth inning. Erica Stricko opened the inning with a single and scored on a triple over the center fielder's head by Liz Dutweiler. Dutweiler scored on a double by Kayleigh Galliher to right field and Galliher scored on a fielder's choice.

Kennery limited the Lady Quakers to just seven hits while striking out 11 and not allowing any walks.

The Lady Spartans continued their strong play against West Seneca West as they started quick, scoring three runs in the first.

O'Brien opened the game with a single and advanced on a sacrifice bunt by Stricko. Kennery followed with a double to the gap, scoring O'Brien. Amanda Maraschiello followed with another double to the opposite field, scoring Kennery and Maraschiello scored on a passed ball.

West Seneca West responded by scoring two runs in the top of the fourth to close the gap to 3-2. Morgan McDowell answered for North with a two-out single and scored on an opposite field triple by Galliher.

Kennery had another strong outing on the mound as she threw another complete game for her second win of the season. Kennery scattered nine hits while striking out eight and allowing no walks.

The Lady Spartans again hit the road for a tournament as they traveled to Victor for two games on Saturday. North opened up against Nazareth High School and Kennery was the star. Kennery tossed a one-hitter and struck out ten. She allowed a double in the first inning and didn't allow another hit the rest of the game. After the first inning, only one other ball left the infield. The

Lady Spartans scored the only run they would need in the fourth. With one out, McNally walked, advanced to second on a passed ball, was sacrificed to third by Dutweiler and scored on a two-out single to center by McDowell for North's only run.

North's three-game winning streak came to a halt as they were soundly defeated by the Lady Blue Devils from Victor. Victor scored two unearned runs in the first inning and never looked back as they defeated the Lady Spartans. The Lady Spartans only run came in the seventh inning as Maraschiello reached base on a fielder's choice and ended up scoring on another fielder's choice.

Coach Bubar feels the Lady Spartans have turned the corner and are starting to play better defensively and Kennery has worked back from an early sea-

son foot injury to anchor the pitching. The Lady Spartans were dealt a serious blow when starting first baseman and Canisius College bound Kerry Ulmer was diagnosed with mononucleosis. Ulmer joins Jen Pawlak also out with mono on the bench. Hopefully both players will be back when the playoffs roll around.

North has a busy slate this week as they travel to Frontier for a rematch on Monday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press.

North returns home for a game against Clarence on Wednesday. On Thursday, North will host Lancaster in a make up game and host Sweet Home on Friday. On Saturday, the Lady Spartans are entered in the Depew Tournament and are scheduled for a game at 11 a.m. against Williamsville South at Walden Pond.

Sweet Home baseball struggling at the plate

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

There's a good reason why Sweet Home has yet to win a baseball game this season, and it starts and ends at the plate.

Sweet Home was out-hit 24-5 between ECIC Division I losses to Lancaster, 9-0, on Monday, April 23 and Clarence, 6-3, on April 24.

Lancaster pitcher Nick Sherman fired a one-hitter and allowed two runners on base. Sophomore Brandon Hudson broke up the Redskins' no-hitter in the sixth inning. Earlier in the game, Travis Denman walked and stole second but was stranded.

"We put the ball in play but couldn't hit it to holes in the infield," said Sweet Home coach Derek Zgoda.

Lancaster pounded out 14 hits and led 3-0 after four

innings and added six runs over the last two innings.

"Instead of making a mistake and turning it around, we're making more mistakes and the wheels are starting to fall off a little bit," said Zgoda. "We're still getting decent enough pitching and defense though. Hopefully, it's just a sign of growing pains."

Derek Wisner allowed four earned runs over four innings. Corey Sykes struck out one batter over the final two innings.

Sweet Home scored three runs against Clarence but all three came on errant Red Devil throws in the third. Mike Wolcott reached base on an error and scored on a passed ball. Brian Pappagallo reached base on an error, stole second, reached third on a passed ball and scored on a wild pitch. Ryan Maxwell reached base on a walk and scored on a passed ball.

Denman hit 1 for 2 to raise his batting average to .444.

He has a .583 on-base percentage, leads the team with three RBIs and struck out once. He's also the team's No. 1 pitcher in the rotation.

John Graziano and Hudson also singled for Sweet Home.

Kris Gentzke led Clarence with a triple, home run and four RBIs.

Sweet Home (0-5, 0-4) looks to turn it around with games every day this week. The Panthers hosted Jamestown on April 30 and Lockport on May 1 but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. They are at West Seneca West on Wednesday, May 2 and have an away and home game with Orchard Park on Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4.

"We're trying to build on the positives," said Zgoda. "They're in the right frame of mind to turn it around."

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Sports brief

Katie Lyons, a Williamsville North High School graduate and Williamsville resident, set a school record for assists in a single season for the Buffalo State College women's lacrosse team.

Lyons, a social work major, notched three assists in the team's 17-8 win over Potsdam State College on Wednesday, April 25 to give her 15 helpers on the year.

The old record was 14, set by Chelsey Frail in 2003. Lyons also scored a goal in the game.



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