

Connie Mack U-11 Athletics tie Blue Jays, Braves

The Athletics tied the Blue Jays, 16-16, in a recent Connie Mack U-11 softball game.

The Blue Jays led off with walks to sisters Kelsey and Alexandra Sommers.

Kelsey Sommers then scored on a sharply hit ball up the middle by Lacey Hutchinson, who in turn crossed the plate after successive walks to Alyse Bradley and sisters Claire and Mary O'Neill, reaching the three-run limit for the inning.

The Athletics answered with three runs of their own on walks to sisters Megan and Melissa Mallon, Alison Staebell, Brigid Ryan, Taylor Gibbon and Sophia Militello. Brooke Garand, call-up Grace Galvin and Kelsey Sommers drew walks to load the bases for the Blue Jays in the top of the second. The A's hopes of getting out of the inning with giving up less than the three-run limit came alive when pitcher Rachel Callea struck out the next batter but were foiled when Hutchinson drove the ball to deep center field and tallied three RBIs.

The A's came back to knot the score at 6-6 with walks to Rebecca Regan, Sammy Dispenza, Callea, Kelsey Dwello, and Megan and Melissa Mallon. Callea took the mound for the A's in the third and got her second strikeout of the game.

Claire O'Neill then pounded one to center field but was held to a double by the hustle of fielder Ryan. Mary O'Neill then walked and Claire O'Neill scored on a single by Garand.

The second out came on a strikeout, and Megan Mallon caught a pop fly near first base to hold the Blue Jays to one run. Alexandra Sommers struck out one A's batter, but the A's were still able to get the three-run limit on multiple walks to take the lead.

By the fourth inning, the weather had started to change as the wind picked up and it became noticeably cooler. The Blue Jays first batter was out on a caught pop-up by pitcher Megan Mallon. The next five batters walked, scoring Bradley and Claire O'Neill. Melissa Mallon fielded a grounder hit down the first base line by Kelsey Sommers but it scored Mary O'Neill for the third run.

Dwello led off the A's with a single and advanced on a grounder back to pitcher Kelsey Sommers, who threw to Alyse

Bradley at first for the out. Dwello scored on a double slammed to right field by Melissa Mallon. Mallon scored on a hit by Staebell, who in turn crossed the plate after advancing on Ryan's sacrifice hit up the first base line to Bradley. Gibbon then scored Staebell on a hit toward third base.

The Blue Jays added three more in the fifth on multiple walks. Claire O'Neill came in as the reliever for the Blue Jays and got the first A's batter out on strikes. Rebecca Regan then beat the throw to first for a single, Dispenza reached on a walk, and Callea drove one to right field to score Regan. Lizzie Pittari loaded the bases with a walk followed by a walk to Megan Mallon to score Dispenza. The third run came on a sharp single hit by Melissa Mallon.

As the unlimited-run sixth inning was set to start, ominous clouds darkened the field, making it hard for batters and fielders to see the yellow ball. The Blue Jays loaded the bases and scored with four walks. Garand was out on a sharp hit grounder to Ryan at first but netted an RBI as Hutchinson crossed the plate. Two more walks cost the A's the lead, and the side was retired with a strikeout and grounder back at the pitcher Megan Mallon, who threw to Ryan for the third out.

The A's came to the plate down by one run as the skies grew even darker. Ryan scored the tying run after reaching on a walk, advancing with steals and scoring on a single from Regan. The side was retired with strikeouts, leaving the score knotted at 16-16 each.

Braves 10, A's 10

Under sunny skies, the Braves and Athletics met for the second time this season. Track meets, dance classes and other conflicts had both teams playing short-handed, but the girls on the field didn't seem to mind as the teams played to a 10-10 tie.

The Braves' speedy Holly Sullivan beat out an infield single and later scored along with her sister Julie and Hanna Floss to give the Braves a three-run top of the first inning.

The A's battled back. Melissa Mallon led off with a single to right center field, Alison Staebell followed with a single to center, moving Mallon to third. Brigid Ryan's low liner was

knocked down by Brave first baseman Laura Lawson, who scooped up the ball and beat Ryan to the base while Mallon scored. Julie Sullivan struck out the next batter, and Lawson made another unassisted putout at first to end the first.

The Braves added to the lead in the top of the second when Sarah Boyle, Lawson and Margaret Boyle drove home three runs.

The A's second started with Sam Dispenza scoring on Melissa Mallon's hit.

Kelsey Dwello advanced on Sophia Militello's walk and raced home on Ryan's grounder. Taylor Gibbon was plated by Megan Mallon's hit to center, bringing the score to 6-4.

Meg Gramza scored first in the third followed by the Sullivan sisters, adding three to the Braves' score.

The A's remained in pursuit as Dispenza, Dwello and Gibbon walked and crossed the plate on Melissa Mallon's double and Ryan's single.

Megan Mallon took the mound in the fourth and struck out the three batters she faced. The A's tied the score in the bottom of the inning as Megan Mallon and Dispenza scored on Melissa Mallon's fourth consecutive hit.

The fifth started with Megan Mallon striking out her fourth and fifth consecutive batters before Sarah Boyle hit a line drive that Melissa Mallon grabbed for the third out.

The battery of Julie Sullivan and Kyra Sweeney cooled the A's hot bats in the fifth with a pair of strikeouts and a pop fly to Holly Sullivan at first.

The Braves retook the lead in the top of the sixth as Margaret Boyle was hit by a pitch and scored on Julie Sullivan's hit.

The A's tied the game when Melissa Mallon scored on Ryan's single. Megan Mallon singled to bring Ryan to third with the potential winning run to third before Julie Sullivan struck out the last two A's.

Julie Sullivan and Megan Mallon each pitched three innings, striking out five and seven batters, respectively. Melissa Mallon had four hits and a walk in five trips to the plate, caught three innings and made two unassisted putouts in the field.

Lou Gehrig 'AAA' Orioles squeak past Reds, 7-6

The Lou Gehrig "AAA" Orioles-Reds game was well-played and came down to the bottom of the sixth inning with the game tied at six runs a piece.

Mike Paolini led off the sixth with a double to right center field followed by the game-winning single by Mike Shanahan as the Orioles squeaked past the Reds.

Brendan Quagliana was the Orioles' closer, while Ben Wald opened the game pitching the first two innings, allowing no runs and striking out four batters.

Alex Bender of the Reds struck out six Orioles during his two innings, also allowing no runs.

Orioles 10, Rockies 5

Mike Paolini had three hits, including a triple and a walk to lead the Orioles' offensive attack against the Rockies.

The Rockies took an early 2-1 lead with runs scored by Alex Finley and Jordan Scinta. Andrew Spitznogle and Ben Wald both scored twice for the Orioles as both boys hit the ball hard.

Solid defense was turned in by Stephen Frost and Matt Schwallie of the Orioles as well as Eric Verhage and Jack Cooper of the Rockies.

'AA' baseball

Mets 18, Rockies 4

The Mets played like a true team, collecting 26 hits for their third victory of the year. Leading the way was Steven Metzger, who owned four of the hits. Some huge hits were also provided by Alex Wanat with a bases-clearing double in the fourth inning, Carter Wild, with two doubles, and Jake Zurat, who ripped a ball to the fence in the third. Other Mets with perfect days were Matthew Schrlau and Kyle Spoth, each 3 for 3.

There were some big-league plays on the defensive side. Justin Jenneve threw a bullet from right center field to Spoth at third base to erase the runner trying to take the base. Other nice plays were provided by Ben

Hingston and Brady Homberger, who made several key assists.

Mets 13, Nationals 12

The Mets scored one run in the bottom of the sixth inning to slip past the Nationals.

The Mets scored the winning run in the bottom of the sixth with three consecutive singles by Matthew Schrlau, Justin Jenneve and Dylan Birzon. Plenty of timely hitting was also provided during the game as Brady Homberger and Jake Zurat each collected three hits.

There were some heavy hits during the game as Sam Barillari, Kyle Spoth and Steven Metzger hammered a double each. The hard shot of the day was provided by Alex Wanat as he ripped a shot down the first base line for a stand-up triple in the first inning.

Plenty of great defensive plays were displayed. Brady Homberger squeezed a third strike foul tip in the fourth for an out, and Carter Wild made a smooth fielding play to end the third.

Mets 11, Tigers 10

The Mets had to rally several times to finally get past the Tigers.

In the top of fourth inning, the Mets scored five big runs to take a 6-5 lead, a lead that see-sawed back and forth for the balance of the game.

The Mets scored two needed runs in the top of the sixth to hold the lead with the big blow coming from Steven Metzger, who delivered a clutch double that drove in the tying and winning runs. Other timely hits were provided by Ben Hingston and Dylan Birzon in the fifth to keep the game tied.

Some solid defense was provided by Patrick Allen, Matthew Schrlau and Jake Zurat. Each was involved in several key outs during the game. Notable standout plays were provided by Kyle Spoth, who dove for a ball at third base to make the catch, only to have the ball spill out of his glove when he hit the ground. He followed up the play by grabbing the ball and

taking the force out at third. The final big out came in the bottom of the sixth, when catcher Alex Wanat squeezed the third strike foul tip to end the game.

Major 'A' baseball

Astros 7, Nationals 6

Brandon Schick went 3 for 3 at the plate, and Mike Keubler and Connor Gust each had a pair of hits for the Astros as they held on to beat the Nationals.

The Astros built a 5-0 lead, but the Nationals got three runs back in the bottom of the fourth inning, highlighted by Dominic Penna and Adam Hepp base hits.

After holding the Astros in the top of the fifth, the Nationals' Tommy Styn delivered a two-RBI double to tie the game.

Connor Gust and Sam Zwierchowski both scored for the Astros in the top of the sixth. The Nationals' Jake Zaleski singled and eventually scored on Jim Davis' base hit, but the Astros held on to preserve the win.

Nationals 8, Yankees 3

The Nationals used a balanced offensive attack and great pitching to defeat the Yankees.

Tommy Styn pitched two scoreless innings for the Nationals and scored two runs on the offensive side. Mitchell Wagner and Braden O'Brien each had doubles and Casey Davis' grounder brought in a run in the fourth.

The Yankees had extra base hits from Karl Reardon and Zach Thomas.

Nationals 13, Red Sox 10

The Nationals overcame two deficits and pulled ahead for good with a seven-run inning in the bottom

of the fifth inning to defeat the Red Sox.

Jonah Wrest and Mark Fleming each had a pair of hits for the Red Sox and Max Slick hit a three-run home run.

Cole Weppner and Ryan Mitchell each had two hits, and Jim Davis had an RBI single for the Nationals.

Minor 'A' Softball

Angels 9, Marlins 4

The Angels and Marlins recently played an exciting game, with the Marlins taking an early three-run lead with runs scored by Kaitlin Battaglia, Emily Nicosia and Caitlin Quinn.

The Angels were able to go ahead with five runs in the top of the third and never looked back. Jamie Zwink, Ellie Garrity, Olivia Faracca, Ashley Sliwa and Brianna Reaser all recorded multiple hits.

Alexis Mulone played a great all-around game, recording three outs in the field and going 4 for 4 at the plate. Megan Fish had another strong game, also hitting 4 for 4 and recording two outs in the field, including a running catch of a high fly ball at third base.

The Angels' Morgan Simon made a heads-up play when fielding a hard ground ball to second base by tagging the runner out as she ran by to record the final out of the third inning.

Quinn, Kirsten Grasso and Samantha Crane led the Marlins with three hits each.

Angels 10, Royals 7

Megan Fish had a big day at bat and in the field for the Angels, hitting 4 for 4 at the plate and recording three outs in the field.

Alexis Mulone, Olivia Faracca and Margaret Niederpruem were also per-

fect at the plate, while Ellie Garrity, Brianna Reaser and Ashley Sliwa all contributed multiple hits.

In the field, Olivia Faracca recorded two unassisted outs at first base in the second inning. In the fifth, Ashley Sliwa and Miranda Fish teamed up for a great play, with Sliwa fielding a hard grounder at shortstop and throwing the ball to Fish covering second to record the final out of the inning.

Rachel Migliore, Maeve Christ, Emily Trotman, Stella Teach and Anna Bartlett all had multiple hits for the Royals, with Christ scoring four of the Royals' seven runs.

White Sox 18, Mets 1

The White Sox bats came alive last Saturday, scoring 18 runs in a win over the Mets.

Abby Welch, Elena Kotrides and Clare Ahern all went 6 for 6 and Welch scored five runs to lead the White Sox.

Brooke McKinnon added two hits and scored a run, Heather Hurley had four hits and scored three runs, and Kendal Rehak had four hits and scored three runs.

Kotrides made two outstanding fielding plays in the third inning to snuff out a Mets' rally, and Clare Ahern completed a rare unassisted double play in the fifth, hustling to catch a foul ball hit down the first base line in foul territory, making the catch and getting back to tag the base before the runner.

This ended the Mets' threat in the fifth, and after the White Sox scored five in the top of the sixth, Welch and Rehak each turned in terrific defensive plays to end the game.

Sports brief

Larry Finkelstein of East Amherst and Brian Langenfeld of Snyder tied for third place in the open sabre event at the A Little Cut and Thrust Tournament held Saturday, May 12 at the Fencing Center of Buffalo.

Finkelstein, defeated Ryan Toth in the quarterfinals, 15-12, before losing to eventual champion, Robert Smith, in the semifinals, 15-12.

Langenfeld, dispatched Tyler Fratantonio, 15-4, in the quarterfinals, before falling to Scott Dewey in the semis, 15-14.

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