

Lancaster girls lax snaps Amherst's win streak

The Amherst Central girls lacrosse team hadn't lost to a Section VI opponent since May 2005 but that all changed on Monday, April 21 at Lancaster.

The Lady Tigers lost to Lancaster, 13-6. Amherst won 15-2 over the Lady Redskins last year. Lancaster and Amherst have won section titles in Class A and C, respectively, for the past three years.

"We met up with a speedy and strong opponent determined to come out with the win," said Amherst coach Janet Battaglia.

Battaglia said the day after a disappointing loss against her team last year, Lancaster set in motion a plan to not let that happen again.

"They worked diligently in the offseason to accomplish that goal and have become a strong, dominant team in our area," said Battaglia. "They were faster and stronger and hungrier than we were. It is hard to beat a team with a common mission."

Lancaster jumped out to a 4-0 lead, and although Amherst nipped away at the difference, the Lady Redskins really never looked back.

With Lancaster up 6-1, Amherst chipped in two goals before halftime to make it 6-3. Abbie Gowen had a touch in each of the first half goals, scoring two of her own and finding Daisy Timlin for another tally.

The second half began with Lancaster scoring within the first minute. Amy Simon had a goal to ignite the Lady Tigers but Lancaster answered back with three straight goals to make it 10-4 before the Lady Tigers could find the back of the net again. Simon finished with two more goals in the half.

"Lily Timlin worked hard in this game," said Battaglia.

Battaglia said her team's defense had their hands full with Lancaster's quick 8-meter passing and strong finishes.

"Our midfield struggled with their defensive pressure and our attack was subdued by solid low defense," said Battaglia.

Goalie Ellie Poleon made five saves.

"Kudos to coach Buccieri and her team to realize and reflect what it takes to be so competitive," said Battaglia.

Amherst had won 35 games in Section VI since losing a league contest to East Aurora, 9-8, in May 2005.

"The run of local wins is an accomplishment and a sense of pride for our current team and those past teams," said Battaglia. "Hopefully, we as a team realize the effort and commitment it takes to rebound, and not take the success of the past for granted."

Amherst improved to 4-0 in ECIC Division III after defeating

Eden, 18-2, on Wednesday at Eden and Iroquois, 20-8, on Friday at Iroquois.

Ten different Lady Tigers scored against Eden.

Sophia Junghyun Kim (three goals) and Jessica Turpin (two goals), Erin Edson (two goals) had a career high for goals. Lily Timlin chipped in with a goal and an assist. Stephanie Scime, Kelsey Battaglia and Sophie Neiscuir each had a goal. Ashley Zak had two back-to-back assists and Jenna Klein added an assist.

Defensively, Amherst played well behind the efforts of Karlene Kristich and Cyd Kramer. Poleon

and Deanna Sinatra split time in the net.

Against Iroquois, the Lady Tigers were challenged to "go out and set the tone" and that is what they did, jumping out to a 4-0 lead in the first four minutes en route to a 13-3 halftime lead.

Meagan Hurley, Edson, Kramer, Casey McGuire and Elana Korn did a great job of holding off the Iroquois attack.

Gowen led Amherst with five goals and six assists. Daisy Timlin and Simon each chipped in four goals. Brooke Bullock added three goals. Kristin Scaringi and Lily Timlin each scored a goal

with one helper. Neiscuir and Turpin each chipped in a goal. Kim tacked on one assist.

"The game demonstrated our strengths in controlling the ball when we play organized and together," said Battaglia. "Iroquois put on a diligent run in the second half where they scored four goals in nine minutes. They really out-hustled us during this period of time."

Amherst (4-4) hosted Williamsville East on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. The Lady Tigers play at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday at Springville.

Sweet Home

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Kacz was equally strong, throwing a complete game six-hitter, striking out six and walking one.

"I thought he did a great job changing speeds on his pitches," said Zgoda. "He was getting his breaking ball over for strikes. The defense played strong behind him. It was a total team effort."

Sweet Home scored a run in the first (Pappagallo on Denman RBI double), second (Klein on Craig Young double) and seventh (Stonish on ground ball by Mike Wolcott) innings. The Panthers' run in the seventh was the result of two South fielding errors.

Tom LiSacchi scored South's only run in the sixth on a fielder's choice by Austin White. LiSacchi had two singles. Alex Walkowski also singled. South left five runners in scoring position.

The Sweet Home offense took a detour against Lake Shore as they only managed five hits off of Lake Shore's Eric Radwan.

The Panthers gave up eight runs in the top of the second. Sweet Home scored once in the third, twice in the sixth and another in the seventh.

Gutt hit 2 for 2 with a run scored and two RBIs.

Barnas threw 5.1 scoreless innings of relief pitching to give the Panthers a chance at a comeback.

Graziano walked with the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh to plate Dominik Puntillo for the winning run against Baldwinville.

Chris Hammer scattered nine hits and allowed two earned runs for the victory on the mound.

"He changed speeds and did a nice job of getting out of jams," said Zgoda.

Sweet Home (4-4, 2-2) hosts Hamburg at 5 p.m. on Wednesday and travel to West Seneca East at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday in a makeup game from Monday.

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North baseball rallies, beats Clarence in thriller

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Whenever the Williamsville North and Clarence baseball teams clash, there's always a good chance it will be a good game. Last Friday's contest at Clarence was no exception.

The Spartans scored five runs with two outs in the top of the seventh inning and held off a late Clarence rally to win 8-7.

"High school baseball could not get any more exciting," said North coach Jerry Scarcella.

Mike Bova started North's rally in the seventh with a clutch, two-strike single to right field. Austin Benschadle followed with a hit. James Nowicki then doubled that scored Bova and Benschadle. Steve Barth singled and scored Nowicki. Jeff Teplitsky then singled and plated Steve Barth and Alex Barth.

North forced Clarence into two outs before the Red Devils scored twice in the bottom of the seventh. Mike Herberger pitched a

third of an inning to record the save. Mike Koch got the win in relief. Patrick O'Brien pitched the first three innings.

North opened a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Nowicki tripled to score Benschadle and Nowicki scored from third on a fielder's choice. Clarence scored five times before Benschadle singled in Jordan Gust in the fifth.

Nowicki and Benschadle each hit 3 for 4. Nowicki posted three RBIs. Benschadle had one RBI. Teplitsky hit 1 for 3 with two RBIs.

North split its other league games, routing West Seneca West, 14-3, at home on Monday, April 21 and losing at home to Lancaster, 8-5, last Wednesday.

The Spartans exploded for six runs in the fourth against West Seneca West to erase a 3-2 deficit. Anthony Longarzo doubled in Nowicki, Garrett Crage scored Steve Barth on a fielder's choice, Marc Kadish doubled in Benschadle and Nick Fronczak tripled in Kadish and Gust.

In the bottom of the fourth, Herberger came in and pitched the rest of the game to record the win. He allowed one hit, a walk, and struck out three.

Alex Barth went 3 for 4 (two doubles) with three RBIs. Longarzo batted 3 for 3 with three RBIs. Fronczak went 2 for 4 (double, triple) with two RBIs.

North dug itself an 8-1 deficit against Lancaster but almost rallied all of the way back in the seventh. Nowicki, Kadish, and Fronczak singled home Herberger, Benschadle and Nowicki, respectively. Fronczak was caught trying to steal third. Alex Barth singled to score Kadish but the next two batters grounded out to end the game.

Alex Barth batted 2 for 2 with two RBIs. Kadish hit 2 for 3 with an RBI. Nowicki went 2 for 4 with an RBI.

Matt Goraj scattered six hits and earned the loss.

North (2-5, 2-3) is at Jamestown at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday and at Orchard Park at 5 p.m. on Friday.



NATIONALS — Lindsey Morgan (Lancaster), far left, Caitlin Formato (Lancaster), Lily Timlin (Amherst) and Kristin Stone (Clarence) were four of 60 girls lacrosse players selected from approximately 160 girls from Western New York (Rochester and Buffalo) and Central New York (Albany and Syracuse) to compete in the school girls division of the Women's Division National Tournament May 24-25 at the McDonogh School outside Baltimore, Md. The New York State team will play against teams from other states.



TRY TO CATCH ME — Williamsville East senior Erica Flaschner runs with the lacrosse ball past Eden's Virginia Partridge during the Lady Flames' 15-6 home win last Friday at East.

Photo by Amy Krakowiak
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Sacred Heart lacrosse splits games

With almost the entire starting lineup gone on spring recess, the Sacred Heart girls lacrosse team almost beat Mt. Mercy but fell short, 11-10, on April 10.

"At one point, we didn't have any subs," said Sacred Heart coach Emily Canty. "The underclassmen did an amazing job. It showed they could play."

Sophomore Mary Canty led the Sacred Heart offense with four goals and two assists. Freshman Emily Tevens scored her first varsity goal. Freshman Madeline Bartels also tallied. Freshman Jenna Schratz had an assist.

Senior Liz Briody scored four goals and grabbed a team-high 10 ground balls.

Freshman Angelica Tan made 17 saves.

Sacred Heart opened the season by defeating Buffalo Seminary, 16-15, on April 8.

Canty, Monique Mattes and Natalie Wasilewski each scored three times. Briody and Sam Arena each tallied two goals. Bartels, Talya Calabro and Alex Femia each scored once.

Canty grabbed nine ground balls.

Tan made 19 saves.

Sacred Heart played Mount St. Mary's on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. They host Buffalo Seminary at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday at the University at Buffalo Rotary Field.