



Jenn Martin lays down a bunt attempt for Sacred Heart against Roy-Hart in the 11th annual Wildcat Invitational Softball Tournament held on Saturday at Walden Pond. The Sharks won 7-4.

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Lady Panthers softball ends week strong

Last week didn't start out well for the Sweet Home softball team but the Lady Panthers finished strong.

Sweet Home (4-8, 2-4) lost at Hamburg, 2-0, last Wednesday, and at home to West Seneca East last Thursday, 14-12, in 10 innings, but beat Section V's Wayland-Cohocton, 6-5, in eight innings in the first round of the 11th annual Wildcat Invitational Softball Tournament on Saturday at Walden Pond in Lancaster.

Sweet Home started the scoring against Wayland-Cohocton in the top of the second inning. Kim Charleson walked then scored on a fielding error on Ashley Cavalier's hit to the third baseman. On that error, Cavalier finished at third base with one out. Natalie Vazquez then scored Cavalier on a RBI single up the middle.

Wayland-Cohocton answered back with four earned runs over the next three innings. Trailing 4-2, Sweet Home tied the game in the top of the sixth inning after taking advantage of two errors by the first baseman off of balls hit from Carol Skoney and Charleson. With two outs, Cavalier ripped a single that plated Skoney and Charleson.

With the game tied at 4-4, tournament rules forced the national tiebreaker rule with a runner starting on second base in the beginning of the inning. Skoney started on second and made it to third base on a passed ball by the catcher. Two strikeouts later, Cavalier doubled in Skoney for the lead. With two outs, Jess Forti ripped a single to left field, scoring Cavalier.

After a dropped third strike error, Wayland-Cohocton had runners on first and third with no outs. Their next batter hit a double to right center, scoring one run. With runners on second and third and no outs, Sweet Home walked Wayland-Cohocton's next batter to load the bases and allowed a force out at home. Amanda Cannizzo struck out the next three batters to end the game. Cannizzo threw 11 strikeouts.

"We knew if we were going to win, we would have to fight to the bitter end," said Sweet Home coach Diana Calandra.

Cavalier hit 2 for 4, scored two runs and had three RBIs. Forti hit 1 for 2, including the game-winning RBI.

The West Seneca East game was also a nail-biter.

West Seneca East scored a run in the top of the

first inning and Sweet Home answered back in the bottom of the inning. Vazquez singled and Heather Kolbas sacrificed herself, allowing Vazquez to make it to third with one out. Cannizzo then hit a sacrifice fly to score Vazquez.

West Seneca East scored a run in the top of the fourth and Sweet Home answered back in the bottom of the inning.

With one out, Cannizzo doubled and Forti reached first with a drop third strike allowing Cannizzo to make it to third.

Jillian Reeser then hit a ball to the pitcher which she overthrew to first, scoring Cannizzo.

In the top of fifth, West Seneca East scored five more runs and yet again, Sweet Home fought back in the bottom of the inning by scoring five more runs. Kelly Weber, Kolbas, Cannizzo, Courtney Smith and Forti all contributed to those runs as all had a hit to get on base, including a triple by Forti.

The sixth inning invited three runs from each team. Weber, Vazquez and Kolbas scored for Sweet Home.

With the score tied 10-10, the game went into extra innings. In the bottom of the eighth, Sweet Home had a two-out rally to load the bases with Smith walking, Forti singling, and Reeser walking. Jesse Lewandowski then hit a beautiful line drive hit to the outfield but West Seneca East's center fielder used her speed to catch the ball and end Sweet Home's rally.

With the national tie-breaker rule in the tenth, West Seneca East battled and scored four runs. Vazquez and Kolbas answered back with two runs for Sweet Home but it was not enough.

Cannizzo hit 3 for 5, scored two runs and had two RBIs. Smith recorded three RBIs. Forti went 3 for 5, scored a run and had two RBIs.

Hamburg's only runs, which were unearned, came in the bottom of the second inning with two outs and runners on second and third base.

Calandra said there was an overthrown ball that deflected off the third baseman's glove and past the leftfielder, allowing the runs to score.

Vazquez spoiled Hamburg's no-hitter by hitting 1 for 3 as well as four assists on defense at shortstop. Cannizzo tossed a four-hitter.

Sweet Home hosts Williamsville East at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday and travel to Iroquois for a 4:30 p.m. start on Friday.

South suffers tough ECIC Division II defeats

The Williamsville South softball team suffered its fourth and fifth ECIC Division II losses of the season, falling to Williamsville East, 7-3, last Tuesday at Transit Middle School and to Hamburg, 14-0, last Friday at South.

The Hamburg game was South's worst defeat in 10 years. Lauren Falzone had two hits and Sam Strapason added a hit. (For highlights of the East game, see the East softball story).

South did defeat Lake Shore, 5-3, last Wednesday at South.

Falzone had two singles and a double. Additional hits came from Kyle Plimpton and Kate Kurzanski with two hits each and a solo single by Megan Hull. Plimpton threw a seven-hitter, struck out eight and walked one.

South rebounded from the

Hamburg loss with a great effort against a highly ranked Lancaster team last Saturday at the 11th annual Wildcat Softball Tournament.

The Lady Billies pounded out 14 hits against nine hits for Lancaster and stranded four runners in a tough 4-1 loss.

Hitting stars for South were Devon Powers (3 for 4), Strapason (2 for 4), Kurzanski (2 for 4), Stephanie Shanin (2 for 4) and single hits by Emma Markley, Danielle Giancarlo, Hull, Nikki Karchensky and Falzone.

Plimpton pitched an excellent

game, said coach Gerry Gentner.

South's second game of the tournament against third-ranked large school Clarence saw Plimpton throw a masterpiece for three innings before the game was cancelled because of rain. Plimpton struck out five batters over three innings.

Gentner was pleased with the effort after watching the team play poorly against East and Hamburg.

South (4-10, 2-5) hosts Iroquois at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday and West Seneca East at 4:45 p.m. on Friday.

Sports brief

Williamsville North graduate Hillary Jacobson recorded six goals, six assists and picked up seven ground balls for the Oneonta State College women's lacrosse team this spring.

Sacred Heart's offense comes alive

Sacred Heart's softball team hasn't been hitting the ball this season but last week the Sharks' bats woke up.

Sacred Heart (5-2, 4-2) won at Niagara Catholic, 10-0, in five innings on Thursday, Roy-Hart, 7-4, on Saturday as part of the 11th annual Wildcat Softball Invitational at Walden Pond, and Cardinal O'Hara, 9-0, on Monday at the Amherst Pepsi Center.

Katie Salisbury had two hits and two RBIs and Allison Gravelle recorded a hit and three RBIs against Niagara Catholic.

The Sharks pounded out 11 hits against Roy-Hart. Salisbury had three hits and Caitlin Schenk, Jill Perillio and JV call-up Caitlyn Colucci each had two hits. Colucci's hits were a double and triple.

Against O'Hara, the Sharks scored once in the first and second, three in the third and two in the fifth and sixth.

Jenn Martin made two hits. Schenk recorded two hits and two RBIs. Brianna Brink recorded seven assists at third base.

Pam Formoso won all three games on the mound. She threw a three-hitter and struck out 10 against Niagara Catholic, tossed a three-hitter with 11 strikeouts versus Roy-Hart and a four-hitter against O'Hara.

The rest of the regular season for the Sharks is at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday against Nichols, Iroquois at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Nike Base in Hamburg in the Immaculata Tournament, at Holy Angels at 4:15 p.m. on Monday, May 12 at Shoshone Park and against Mt. St. Mary's at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14 at the Pepsi Center.

Amherst

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"Despite the score, it was a much better softball game than from the day before," said Amherst coach Mike Chatelle. "Both teams played well. East came up with key hits."

The game was scoreless until the fifth when East scored three times. Anna Stolzenburg hit a sacrifice fly to score Jessica Windnagle and Bridget Steele followed with a single to drive in Jessica Moulin. Steele scored off a single by Courtney Hawkins.

Chelsea Horne led off the sixth with a solo home run.

DeFrancis threw six innings, allowed one unearned run, three hits and struck out four.

Lankes, Stein, Bardak and Dana Illos singled.

The Lady Tigers left the bases loaded in the fourth and runners on second in the fifth and seventh.

Amherst (2-7, 2-4) beat Tonawanda, 6-5, on Monday. Highlights will appear in next week's Bee. They hosted North Tonawanda on Tuesday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. They host Depew on Wednesday, travel to Williamsville North on Thursday and host Maryvale on Friday. All are 4:30 p.m. starts.

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