

# North softball closing in on ECIC I title

The Williamsville North varsity softball team had an incredible week as they avenged an earlier loss to Lancaster by turning the tables and defeating the Lady Redskins, 3-1, on Friday at North.

Earlier in the week, North defeated Frontier, 3-2, on Monday at Frontier; West Seneca West, 13-0, on Wednesday at North; and a nonleague home win over Amherst last Thursday, 5-1.

North improved their division record to 9-1 and overall record to 15-6.

The Frontier game was close throughout. North scored their first run in the top of the first inning as Corrin Genovese tripled and scored on a safety squeeze by Kerri Bubar.

North scored their second run in the top of the sixth as Amanda Maraschiello smashed a two-out triple to left center and scored on an RBI single by Erica Stricko.

Frontier responded with a run of their own to make the score 2-1 in the bottom of the sixth.

North secured an insurance run in the top of the seventh as Genovese homered to deep left field to make the score 3-1.

Frontier made it exciting as they scored once in the

bottom of the seventh with a home run, but Tricia Kennery shut the door to secure the victory. Kennery finished with 12 strikeouts and only allowed one walk.

North's bats exploded against West Seneca West. Leslie Ahern was the leader as she crushed a home run, scored three runs and drove in four runs. Caitlin Riegel scored two runs by getting two hits in two at bats.

Robin Kennery and Kayleigh Galliher combined for scoring three runs from the second-base position.

Nikki Attea notched the first shutout of her career, allowing only one hit while striking out eight.

Kristen Weber supplied the power against Amherst as she unloaded with a triple and home run in two at-bats, driving in two of the five runs.

Maraschiello unleashed a triple for two more runs batted in. Robin Kennery and Attea split pitching duties with Kennery, recording eight strikeouts in a row. Combined, they limited Amherst to five and 10 strikeouts.

North's finest game of the week was their victory over Lancaster.

Genovese opened the game with a hard single up the middle and scored on a home run by Robin Kennery over the left fielder's head.

The score remained 2-0 until the top of the fourth, when Lancaster scored their only run. Sarah Anthon opened the inning with a walk and scored on a triple by Kristen Hineman. Hineman was gunned down at the plate by Robin Kennery trying to stretch the triple into a home run.

North would answer with an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth. Stricko led off the inning with a single to right field. Robin Kennery executed a sacrifice bunt to move Stricko into scoring position, where she was driven home on a single by Ahern.

Tricia Kennery made sure of the win by limiting Lancaster to six hits and the one run.

"Tricia has come up big in all the important games for North this season," said coach Rick Bubar.

North also beat Section V's Aquinas, 3-1, in ten innings and lost to Section V's Our Lady of Mercy, 4-2, on Saturday. North beat Clarence, 1-0, on Monday in a rematch of the two top teams and first place on the line.

The Lady Spartans close out their league schedule by traveling to Jamestown at 5 p.m. on Friday. If North beats Jamestown, North is division champs and the top seed in Class A. North can also clinch if Clarence beats Lancaster on Wednesday.

## Lady Billies beat Iroquois, lose to WS East

Williamsville South's softball team improved to 3-5 in ECIC Division II with a convincing 13-2 win over Iroquois last Wednesday at South.

The Lady Billies' offense struck in the first inning. Senior captain Lauren Falzone led off with a single followed by a single from junior Devon Powers and an RBI single by junior co-captain Sam Strapason. Emma Markley had a fielder's choice that led to an RBI and South's second run.

South added two runs in the second on a solo home run by Falzone and a triple by Megan Hull, who later scored to make the score 4-0.

The Lady Billies added four insurance runs in the fifth to break the game open on a Kyle Plimpton triple, a Powers single, a Strapason single and a home run by sophomore Kate Kurzanski.

In the sixth, Nikki Karchensky led off with a single and Falzone, Plimpton and

Powers followed with successive hits to score four runs.

South finished with 13 runs and 16 hits, led by Falzone (4 for 4), Powers (3 for 4) and Strapason (3 for 4). Plimpton threw 10 strikeouts.

South hosted a strong West Seneca East team last Friday at South and fell 5-1.

The Lady Billies played the Lady Trojans tough for the first four innings in a pitcher's duel between South's Plimpton and

West Seneca East's Chelsea Dushin.

West Seneca East scored four runs in the fifth with one out.

South rebounded in the sixth and seventh to shut down West Seneca East but was not able to mount a rally.

Plimpton tossed a seven-hitter and struck out 12.

South's only game this week is at 4 p.m. on Wednesday against Williamsville East at South.

## Sharks wins league game, loses at tourney

The Sacred Heart softball team came up short at the Immaculata Tournament but fared well in a Monsignor Martin Association game.

The Sharks dropped tournament games to ECIC teams, Iroquois, 4-3, and Lake Shore, 5-4, on Saturday at the Nike Base in Hamburg. Sacred Heart shut out Nichols, 10-0, in five innings last Wednesday at the Amherst Pepsi Center.

The Sharks trailed Iroquois, 4-0, after the first inning but chipped away at the deficit. Jenn Martin singled in JV call-up Ashley McCormick in the second and Jill Perillo and McCormick in the fifth. Martin finished with three hits.

Pitcher Pam Formoso struck out three Iroquois batters.

Sacred Heart led Lake Shore, 2-0, after the first inning when Martin and Katie Salisbury each scored on passed balls.

With Lake Shore ahead, 4-2, Allison Gravelle, with two outs in the sixth, doubled in Caitlin Schenk and Brianna Brink. Lake Shore scored the game-winning run in the sixth.

Brink hit two home runs against Nichols, one with a runner on in the second and another with two on in the second. She finished with five RBIs.

Formoso threw a no-hitter and struck out five.

Sacred Heart (6-2, 7-4) beat Holy Angels, 7-3, on Monday. Highlights will appear in next week's Bee. They play Mount St. Mary's at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday at the Pepsi Center.

## Amherst Central playing better

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Last week started out well for the Amherst Central softball team but ended with a whimper.

The Lady Tigers won ECIC Division III league games last Monday and Tuesday over Tonawanda, 5-4, Pioneer, 10-3, but lost Wednesday through Friday to ranked teams Depew, 5-3, Williamsville North, 5-1, and Maryvale, 5-0.

"I think after this week, we were a better team than at the end of last week," said Amherst coach Mike Chatelle. "Even though we didn't have a winning record, we played good teams and played some good softball."

Amherst opened the Tonawanda game with three runs in the first inning. Rachel Schepart hit a two-run double to knock in Eva Lankes and Kara Stein and Katie Bardak scored on an error.

"The girls came out focused and came ready to play in the first inning," said Chatelle. "You could see it in warm-ups."

Amherst made it 4-0 in the fourth when Dana Ruh scored Abby DeFrancis on a fielder's choice.

Tonawanda scored four runs in the top of the sixth to tie the game.

In the bottom of the sixth, Schepart singled to score Bardak for the game-winning run. Schepart finished with two hits and three RBIs.

Bardak added two hits, two runs and an RBI. Ruh, Lankes, Stein and DeFrancis each recorded a single.

Jessica Banning sent Tonawanda down 1-2-3 in the seventh, including two strikeouts, to end the game. She finished with a seven-hitter and seven strikeouts.

Amherst pounded out 14 hits against Pioneer.

The Lady Tigers trailed 2-0 when they scored four times in the top of the second. Darcy Regan led off with a double, moved to third on an error and scored on a single by Katy Tirella. Amherst later loaded the bases and Banning hit a three-run triple to score Tirella, Carolyn Trabert and Lankes.

In the fifth, Regan singled home DeFrancis and in the sixth, hit a three-run home run to the right center gap. Regan finished 4 for 4, scored two runs and had four RBIs.

Bardak hit a two-run home run to left center field in the seventh. She went 2 for 4, scored twice and added two RBIs.

Banning went 2 for 3 with three RBIs. Lankes added two hits.

DeFrancis singled at the plate and fired an eight-hitter with eight strikeouts and allowed two earned runs on the mound.

Amherst lost 8-2 the last time they played Depew. In the second meeting at Amherst, the Lady Tigers tied the game at 3-3 in the bottom of the fourth. Banning led off with a triple and scored on a passed ball and Regan singled home Bardak and DeFrancis. Three of Amherst's six hits came in the fourth.

Depew added two runs in the top of the sixth.

"We played a lot better this time against them," said Chatelle. "I like how we didn't give up and came back in the fourth. Depew came up with a couple of big hits with runners in scoring position."

Banning tossed a six-hitter with five strikeouts.

Bardak scored on a single by Schepart in the fourth for Amherst's only run against North. Amherst was limited to five hits. Regan had two hits. Lankes and Dana Illenos each had a hit.

Amherst left a runner on third in the first inning and the bases loaded against Maryvale on Friday at Amherst.

The Lady Flyers scored three times in the first and a run in the fifth and seventh.

Amherst recorded six hits. Lankes had two singles. DeFrancis, Schepart, Regan and Ruh each had singles.

Amherst (3-7, 3-11) fell to Cheektowaga, 8-1, in eight innings on Monday. They host Pioneer and Starpoint at 5 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, respectively, and travel to Sweet Home for a 4:15 p.m. game on Thursday.

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## East

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### Sweet Home

The Lady Panthers were shut out by East but blanked Iroquois, 4-0, on Friday at Iroquois.

Natalie Vazquez starting the scoring off in the third inning. Vazquez walked, moved on a sacrifice bunt by Heather Kolbas, and scored from an overthrow by the first baseman.

The Lady Panthers finished their scoring in the fifth. Kelly Weber walked with one out and Vazquez ripped a double to drive her in. Vazquez moved to third base after a passed ball by the catcher. Kolbas was hit by a pitch, forcing a first and third situation.

After Kolbas stole second, Cannizzo hit a sacrifice fly to score Vazquez. This allowed Jess Forti to hit Kolbas in for the third run of the inning. Vazquez hit 2 for 2 with two runs, two walks and a RBI.

Cannizzo pitched a three-hit shutout.

Sweet Home (5-9, 3-5) hosted Lake Shore on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. They play at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday at West Seneca East, hosts Amherst at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday and Hamburg at 5 p.m. on Friday. They open next week at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19 against Williamsville South.

## McMahon named Alfred State Senior Athlete of Year

Sweet Home graduate Brianne McMahon was named Alfred State College co-Senior Athlete of the Year.

McMahon led Alfred State to the Region III Championship and the National Tournament this sea-

son. She collected 435 kills, 467 digs and 76 aces.

She was named Region III Player of the Year for the second straight season, First Team All-Region, First Team All-WNY-AC, and became the first volley-

ball player to be a two-time All-American by being named to the First Team. She was MVP of the Region III, Mohawk Valley and Alfred State Tournaments. She finishes her career with 612 kills, 679 digs and 121 aces.