

Girls Softball

Indian blank Defenders

Pair of Muncy pitchers combine for two-hitter

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The Standard Journal

By Bill Albright

TURBOTVILLE—For the first three innings of Wednesday's softball game between Muncy and Warrior Run, the two teams were involved in a tough 1-0 battle.

However, over the final four innings, the Lady Indians flexed their muscles to bang out 11 hits and score eight runs for a convincing 9-0 victory over the Lady Defenders.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Warrior Run (5-14) came out on the positive side of a sold 8-1 win over Shikellamy. In his team's battle with Muncy (16-4), Lady Defender coach Garth Watson was hoping for more good things to come by way of his team, but it didn't happen.

"They hit the ball hard and they also took a couple of base hits away from us," said Watson. "The (WR) pitchers have to hit their spots. You can't throw batting practice and expect to win. It is one thing to hit fly balls, but when you hit lazy fly balls, like we did today, you aren't able to put pressure on a good defense. We just got lazy with our sticks and when you put a young (WR) team out against a senior-laden team like them, you are going to have a tough time."

When you are operating with a young team, you are going to have your ups and downs. For Watson and his young Defenders, that has been pretty much their season.

"I would like to think they are learning from their mistakes," Watson said. "Some days we cut out a lot of our mistakes and on other day, we made repeated mistakes. Just when you think you are making some gains with a young team, those things happen. They are going to make errors, but hopefully they are going to learn from them because we have to reload this year."

After being a little concerned about stranding five base runners over the opening three innings, Muncy coach Chris Ebner's concerns were put to rest as his Lady Indians went on an offensive assault.

"We put in a little extra time in practice on swinging, seeing the ball longer and watching it longer," said Muncy coach Chris Ebner. "Even through we left five runners on in the first three innings, that meant we were getting runners on (base). We felt that hopefully it was just a matter of time until we settled down and started applying what we had been working on."

Including in the 16-hit Muncy attack were two long home runs, both by freshmen, as Sarah Miller and Lyndsay Stugart both went "yard". Leading the sticks for Muncy were Crystal Good and Amanda Kustenbauder with three hits apiece.

"We moved Sarah (Miller) up into the leadoff spot and she has responded well to that change," said Ebner. "Then for Lyndsay to come in and do that was a big confidence booster for her."

While their teammates were busy accumulating more than enough runs for the win, Muncy pitchers Amanda Kustenbauder and Emily Shnyder were busy limiting the Lady Defenders to just two hits. All the offense Warrior Run could muster in the loss were a sharp single to center by Lisa Waldman and an infield single by Laura Bastian.

"What a luxury we have to have two quality kids who have worked their tails off and are willing to take the ball and share the work load," said Ebner of Kustenbauder and Shnyder. "Having that gives you an extra element that most teams don't have when post-season times come around."

Prior to the game, Watson and his assistants bid farewell to a half dozen seniors who played their final home game on Senior Day. In that group are Lynn Vermilya, Carra Rishel, Laura Bastian, Caitliin Minnich, Mackenzie Hayes and Lisa Waldman.

"For those six seniors, we have to go to Selinsgrove tomorrow (Thursday) and as a team, I think we owe them (seniors) to give it our best effort to play our best game for them" said Watson.

“They are a bunch of girls who played in the state finals and then to have a year like we had this year, it is sort of hard to take. Hopefully we can finish on a positive note.”

Muncy 9

Warrior Run 0

Muncy (16-4) 010 331 1—9-16-0

Warrior Run (5-14) 000 000 0—0-2-1

Amanda Kustenbauder, Emily Shnyder (5) and Crystal Good. Mikayla Griner and Lynn Vermilya.

W—Kustenbauder: L—Griner.

Leading hitters for Muncy: Sarah Miller, 2-for-4, home run, 3 RBI; Lyndsay Stugart, 1-for-1, home run, RBI; Shnyder, double; Kustenbauder, 3-for-4, double; Good, 3-for-5, double.

Leading hitters for Warrior Run: Laura Bastian, single; Lisa Waldman, single.