

Loyalsock too much for WR

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Lancers jump out early on the way to five-inning win

By Bill Albright

FAXON—When Warrior Run and Loyalsock met head-on in softball Thursday afternoon, it took five innings to decide the final outcome, but it only took two innings to determine which team was most likely going to be the winner.

Exploding for seven runs in the first two innings, Loyalsock cruised to an 11-1 victory over the Lady Defenders (2-6) in a game abbreviated in the fifth inning by the 10-run mercy rule.

"Loyalsock has some good sticks up and down their lineup so we knew they were going to hit the ball," said Warrior Run head coach Garth Watson. "They play good defense and they have one of the best pitchers in the area who does a very good job. We are just in kind of a funk at the plate right now. For some reasons we aren't seeing the ball well and we aren't hitting the ball like we are capable of.

"In the beginning of the year we were really driving the ball, but now we aren't doing that and as a result we are leaving some girls on base as well as committing some silly errors on defense."

Leading the Lady Lancers was Kendall Watkins as the third sacker was a perfect 3-for-3 with a triple and two home runs to drive in seven of Loyalsock's 11 runs.

Trailing by the 7-0 count, Warrior Run finally dented the score column in the fourth and they did it with two outs.

Cara Rishel got things started when she belted a long double off the boards in centerfield, Rishel moving to third when McKenna Beyer beat out an infield single to deep short.

Lisa Waldman chased Rishel across the dish with the Lady Defenders only run of the game when she was safe on an error.

The Lady Defenders also threatened in the fifth when Mackenzie Gardner drew a walk and Noelle Bergerstock followed with an infield hit. Unfortunately a pair of ground-outs and an out due to interference by a runner kept the Lady Defenders from scoring any more runs.

Although they only managed four hits, two in the fourth and two more in the fifth, the Lady Defenders managed to put the bat on the ball in most cases.

"We are just doing some little things like dropping our hands and hitting some easy fly balls," said Watson. "Right now we aren't as disciplined (at the plate) as we would like to see them be. We are fishing for pitches and at times, we seem to lose sight of where we are in the pitch count. That is something you have to develop as the season goes on. Right now we just have to do something to find ourselves at the plate."

Despite the loss, Watson saw some things that he feels his team can take from the game to work on for the rest of the season.

"There are a lot of good things we are seeing from the girls and we saw some of those today," he said. "We are going to make mistakes and commit errors, but what we are asking them not to do is make the same mistake twice.

Loyalsock 11

Warrior Run 1

We have to mature and grow in that area because it is one of those things that when you are 2-6 you have to hang in there and see what happens. We have some fiery coaches and we expect that to bleed over to the girls until the twentieth game is played. All we can ask of them is to give us a hundred percent effort every day."

As for Loyalsock (5-2), head coach Craig Weaver knows what he has up and down his lineup.

"We came out strong today and I think we are starting to relax a little bit when it comes to the games," Weaver said, "Early on I don't think we felt at ease at the plate, but now they look much more relaxed and are swinging the bat real well. When you are able to hit, that just makes everything else go well."

As for pitcher Kayla Gee, Weaver also knows what his Lady lancers have in the circle.

"She doesn't strike out a lot of people, but we told her that if we throw one pitch and have an out, that is better than throwing a lot of pitches and maybe getting a strikeout," said Weaver. "She has about six pitches, she is very seasoned for a sophomore and we stress to her that she has a good defense behind her so if she does her job of throwing the ball we'll play defense behind her."

Loyalsock 11, Warrior Run 1

at Loyalsock

Warrior Run (2-6) 000 10—1-4-2

Loyalsock (5-2) 340 22—11-11-1

Jackie Vognetz, Mikayla Griner (2) and Lynn Vermilya. Kayla Gee and Allison Czap.

W—Vognetz. L—Gee.

Leading hitters for Warrior Run: Laura Bastian, single; Cara Rishel, single, run scored; McKenna Beyer, single; Noelle Bergerstock, single.

Leading hitters for Loyalsock: Kendall Watkins 3-for-3, 2 home runs, 3 runs scored, 7 RBI; All Pagano, 2-for-4, 2 doubles, 2 runs scored; Gee 1-for-2, 3 runs scored.