## Mustang 4th brutalizes Lady Wildcats

Written by Jim Metcalfe Friday, April 26, 2013 12:18 PM -

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DELPHOS — THE inning.

That is the dreaded inning of many a baseball or fast-pitch softball game where everything goes wrong for a team — or goes right for the opponent.

In the Allen East at Jefferson Northwest Conference softball clash Thursday night at windy Lady Wildcat Field at Jefferson High School, that "inning" came in the top of the fourth where the Lady Mustangs sent 13 to the plate and had eight touch the dish to blow open the game and eventually led to a 14-3 rout.

The Lady Wildcats (0-8, 0-3 NWC) took the lead in the bottom of the first frame. Sarah Thitoff led off with a free pass against Allen East righty Aubren Davis (6-4; 4 innings pitched, 5 hits, 2 earned runs, 1 free pass, 4 strikeouts) but was eliminated on a grounder by Hannah Sensibaugh (2-for-3, 2 runs scored). The latter moved to second on a groundout by Taylor Branham and scored as Jasmine McDougall (2-for-3) doubled to deep center.

Allen East tied it 1-1 in the top of the second against Jefferson righty Taylor Branham (0-7; 5 IPs, 13 hits, 14 runs, 10 earned, 7 wild pitches, 2 hit batters, 1 BB, 4 Ks) on a 1-out error, a stolen base by Kyle Wyss (one of the team's 12 for the contest) and a bloop single to right center by Sierra Sizemore (2-for-3, 2 runs batted in).

The Mustangs made it 4-1 in the third on three wild pitches, an error and two hits, including a single by Madison Schantz. They also had a suicide squeeze executed by Kaycee Rowe (2-for-3, 3 runs, 2 RBIs) to score Schantz and an RBI comebacker by Wyss to get Rowe in for a 3-run edge.

Jefferson reduced its deficit to 4-2 in the home half of the third. With one down, Thitoff blooped a hit to left center, advanced on an infield hit off the shortstop's glove, moved up on a wild pitch and scored as Branham grounded out to short. McDougall whacked a hit to center to put runners on the corners but they both were stranded.

The Lady Mustang fourth combined 10 steals — taking advantage of the first career varsity start by freshman catcher Sophie Wilson (for injured sophomore Samantha Branham, joining 2 others on the Wildcat injured list) — four wild pitches, a hit batter, a sacrifice fly (Marci Meeker) and six hits, four of them RBI singles. The only extra-base hit in the inning was an RBI 2-bagger to left center by Sizemore. When the final out was recorded, the visitors led 12-2.

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"Outside of that inning, we played very well overall today. We improved during the game and we continue to improve each game as we get more experience," Jefferson coach Josiah Stober relayed. "Our eight hits was the most we've had all season and we put the ball in play much better. We fielded better overall, though we had a couple of miscues. We had to put Sophie under fire and overall, she did a nice job considering it was a league game against a good team; she got better as she went along. We're plugging along with injuries, too."

The Red and White got a 2-out liner to center by Caitlin Landwehr in its half of the fourth frame but she was called for interference with Allen East second sacker Taylor Richardson trying to field Alexis Cook's ground ball. The fielder was shaken up but was OK.

Allen East finalized its scoring in the fifth with two more tallies, combining two errors and three hits. Both runs came home via groundouts: Schantz (Erin Conkle) and Aubry Woods (Rowe) to make it 14-2.

The Wildcats tried to stay alive in the bottom of the fifth against Allen East righty reliever Kaycee Rowe. With one down, Sensibaugh blooped a single to center and went to third on a double to deep center by Branham. Kamie Pulford's 2-out bloop to short right scored Sensibaugh and put Branham at third but Fallon Van Dyke's grounder to second eliminated Pulford to end the contest.

"We're aggressive on the bases; that is our style. We don't necessarily hit the ball with a lot of power but we put the ball in play," Mustang coach Bill Mattevi noted. "I played fast-pitch softball and that's how I played. We force the defense to move around and make plays and we find the holes that opens up. I'd like to have nine girls out there all the time who can steal but we're not there yet."

Both teams return to NWC action 5 p.m. on Monday: Jefferson at Bluffton and Allen East at home versus Lima Central Catholic.

ALLEN EAST (14) ab-r-h-rbi

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Audrey Rodriguez 3b 3-1-1-0, Taylor Richardson pr/2b 0-0-0-0, Alex Mertz If/ss 4-1-1-1, Erin Conkle c 3-3-2-0, Madison Schantz 2b/3b 4-1-1-2, Kaycee Rowe ss/p 3-3-2-2, Kylie Wyss cf/1b 4-2-2-2, Sierra Sizemore dp/cf 3-1-2-2, Aubren Davis p 0-0-0-0, Hannah Kramer ph 1-0-1-0, Kennedy Rex 1b 0-0-0-0, Aubri Woods cr/ph/lf 1-2-0-1, Marci Meeker rf 3-0-1-1. Totals 29-14-13-11.

JEFFERSON (3)

ab-r-h-rbi

Sarah Thitoff dp 2-1-1-0, Kayla Kill If 0-0-0-0, Hannah Sensibaugh 3b 3-2-2-0, Taylor Branham p 3-0-1-1, Jasmine McDougall 1b 3-0-2-1, Kamie Pulford ss 3-0-1-1, Fallon Van Dyke cf 3-0-0-0, Sophie Wilson c 2-0-0-0, Caitlin Landwehr rf 2-0-1-0, Alexis Cook 2b 2-0-0-0. Totals 23-3-8-3.

Score by Innings:

Allen East 0 1 3 8 2 - 14 Jefferson 1 0 1 0 1 - 3

E: Pulford 2, Wilson 2; LOB: Allen East 7, Jefferson 6; 2B: Rowe, Sizemore, Branham, McDougall; SB: Rodriguez 2, Mertz 2, Conkle 2, Rowe 2, Woods 2, Wyss, Meeker; Sac: Rowe; SF: Meeker.

IP H R ER BB SO

**ALLEN EAST** 

Davis (W, 6-4) 4.0 5 2 2 1 4

Rowe 1.0 3 1 1 0 0

**JEFFERSON** 

Branham (L, 0-7) 5.0 13 14 10 2 4

WP: Branham 7, Davis; HBP: Rex 2 (by Branham 2); PB: Wilson 2.