

Sports

The
Bristol Observer

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Our Athletes

They're back



TAMMI KNAPIK

Nick Plactino of Bristol Eastern High School's boys soccer team works on his goalie skills as high school athletes returned for their first day of practice for the fall season on Saturday.

Mets advance, topping Dodgers

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL – Down 1-0 in the series to a solid Dodgers squad, it would have been easy for the Mets to pack it in and call it a season during the Bristol Girls Little League softball series.

Little League Softball

But that wasn't going to happen and behind the one-hit pitching of Madeline Strum, the Mets advanced to the championship round, downing the Dodgers 4-1 from the McCabe-Waters softball field in Bristol on Aug. 25 to close out the best-of-three series two games to one.

But the game had more of a tied ball-game feel to it throughout as the double-tough Dodgers put runners on base – via nine walks – in just about every inning and coach Bill Pratt had his team aggressively running the base-paths, looking for a couple of elusive runs.

Defense is what really propelled the Mets on the evening as two big double-plays snuffed out a couple of the Dodgers' drives that might have sliced into the three-run advantage.

"Sarah (Strilkaukus) did a nice job and so did Caleigh (Lozito) too," said

Mets coach Tammy Strum. "The both of them did a really nice job (on the defensive end)."

Once again, it was Strum on the mound and when her change-up was working, she was difficult to stop as she collected four strikeouts.

But a pre-game injury hampered the ace pitcher a bit as she allowed a lead-off walk in each of the final five innings of play.

Because of the superb defense, not one leadoff runner was allowed to score.

"Truthfully right before the game, she pulled one of her butt muscles," said Strum of Madeline. "She was hurting while she was out there. That she was out there as long as she was and finished, it was really amazing because she was hurt."

The Mets scored in the top of the first as Lozito reached base via error with one out and was plated off a grounder by Sarah Strilkaukus to make it a quick 1-0 game.

In the bottom of the second, Hayley Knox walked to start the frame for the Dodgers and was quickly sacrificed over to second by starting pitcher Rachel Drost (6 innings, 7 hits, 4 Ks) as a runner was in scoring position with one out.

But Strum struck-out

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Tigers punch their ticket into finals

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL – In Bristol Girls Little League Softball Series action, the Tigers have been one tough ticket to beat.

Little League Softball

And after its 13-2 mercy ruled victory over the Angels on Aug. 25, that ticket was then punched for the finals.

It was a total team

effort by the Tigers as coaches Tom Tabacco and Al Martin watched their troops post a 10-run first inning on the scoreboard as the Angels faced an uphill 10-1 deficit after one frame of play.

But to the Angels credit, there was no quit in the squad and put a quick scare in the Tigers after drawing first blood.

Lexi Calfe (2-for-2, triple) drew an infield hit to open the game and later moved to third off a blistering double to left field off the bat of Michaela Sassu

(2-for-2, double).

An infield hit by Chatlene Plycziwski scored Calfe to make it a quick 1-0 affair.

But in the bottom half of the stanza, Calfe worked hard on the mound but was simply overwhelmed by a hot-swing group known as the Tigers.

Jen Tabacco reached via error and later scored off a miscue to make it a 1-1 affair.

Mikayla Martin walked and Ali Martel followed with a single to put two runners on.

From there, Kellie Crandle blasted a single to center as two runs scored to make it a 3-1 push.

Alyssa Padniewski was hit by a pitch and Sara Warkoski walked to load the bases.

Nicole Baral walked to score a run and made it a 4-1 contest.

With two outs, Tabacco walked home a run, Amanda Stone blasted a two-run single, Martin walked for the second time in the inning, Martel sent a two-run single to right and Crandle ended the fray with

an infield hit for an RBI as the Tigers went up 10-1.

On the mound for the Tigers, Tabacco (4 innings, 2 runs, six K's), sent the Angels down in order in the second, and the home team went right back to work at the plate.

Baral sent an RBI single to center, Stone grounded-out but scored Baral from third while an RBI double by Martin made it a 13-1 tilt after two completed frames.

The Angels sprang back to life in the third with a triple to right by Calfe, scoring off a past-ball, but the

Tigers still held a commanding 13-2 lead.

Calfe sent the Tigers down in order in the third but the Angels weren't able to score in the fourth as the game was called via mercy rule and propelled the Tigers to the best-of-three championship round.

For the Tigers, Tabacco scored three times, Stone nabbed three RBI, Martin scored twice, Martel was 2-for-2 with a run and two RBI, Crandle went 2-for-3 with a run and three RBI.