

March 18, 2011

Plano 7, Wheaton Academy 1

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | R | H | E |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wheaton Academy (0-1 overall) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Plano (1-0 overall) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | X | 7 | 7 | 4 |

WP – Eaves (1-0), 7 IP, 2H, 1R, 0ER, 7BBs, 5Ks

LP – Huizenga (0-1), 5 IP, 7R, 3ER, 0BBs, 2Ks

HR – Goldsmith (Plano)

Plano, Ill. – The Wheaton Academy softball team dropped its season opener at Plano today, 7-1. The Reapers tallied three runs in the bottom of the first inning and two more in the second inning to capture a 5-0 lead. WA scored its lone run in the top of the fifth inning. Senior Paige Huizenga (0-1) suffered the loss for the Warriors, while Plano senior Jordan Eaves, who will be undergoing season-ending knee surgery next week, earned the win for the Reapers. All 17 available WA players saw action in the game.

“It was nice to get a game under our belt,” said Wheaton Academy head coach Todd Starowitz. “With only five of our players at today’s game having ever played in a varsity softball game there were a lot of opening-day jitters and we just didn’t get off to a very good start. Paige didn’t have her best stuff but she had nice control. Plano certainly deserved the win. They were quite a bit better than they were a year ago and right now we aren’t as good.”

Wheaton Academy looked to do some damage in the top of the first inning when freshman shortstop Marissa Gagliano was hit by a pitch and stole second. Junior second baseman Caitlin Koehler then walked but a failed sacrifice bunt, followed by two strikeouts and a fly out to centerfield, ended the threat.

Plano tallied three runs on three hits in the bottom of the first to capture a 3-0 lead. The Reapers added two runs on two hits in the bottom of the second inning to extend their lead to 5-0.

WA scored its lone run in the top of the fifth inning to pull to within 6-1. Junior designated player Emily Hillstrom walked to lead off the inning. She advanced to second on a passed ball. After freshman pinch hitter Gina Graff walked, freshman catcher Emily Anderson advanced

both runners to third on a groundout and Hillstrom later scored when Gagliano reached on an error by Plano's pitcher.

Plano extended its lead to 7-1 in the top of the fifth inning with third baseman Taylor Goldman hit a long home run to rightcenter. Goldman, who also made several nice plays at third base, is moving with her family to Mississippi next week.

Wheaton Academy recorded its first hit of the game in the top of the sixth inning when Graff hit a sharply hit single to center. The Warriors left the bases loaded in the sixth. Junior Bekah Heubner recorded WA's other hit, a sharply hit ball off of a Plano defenders glove in the top of the seventh inning.

"We just need to regroup and get ready for a week that has three games on the schedule," said Starowitz. "We next play at IMSA on Tuesday. IMSA was 20-6 a year ago and features one of the better pitchers in the area in Melissa Perkins. On Wednesday, WA travels to Newark to face the Norseman, who return just about everyone from a team that finished 20-14 last year. On Friday, we host an East Aurora team that beat us by a run a year ago. It should be a very interesting week for us. I am still very excited about this team. We knew we were going to struggle out of the gate because of so much inexperience but this team works extremely hard, enjoys being around one another, and has some very good athleticism. It's going to be fun to watch us progress."