

April 5, 2011

**Wheaton Academy 13, Aurora Christian 3 (6 innings)**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Aurora Christian	2	0	0	0	0	1	X	3	4	6
Wheaton Academy (1-3 overall, 1-0 SCC)	3	0	2	3	0	5	X	13	11	1

WP – Huizenga (1-2), 5IP, 2 R, 0ER, 4H, 4Ks, 0BBs

LP – Pittman, 6IP, 13R, 6ER, 11H, 6Ks, 2BBs

HR – Gagliano (WA) (1)

West Chicago, Ill. – The Wheaton Academy softball team (1-3 overall, 1-0 SCC) earned its first victory of the season with a 13-3 (6 inn.) victory over Aurora Christian in the Warriors home opener. Senior Paige Huizenga (1-2) earned the victory in the circle for the Warriors, allowing no earned runs and four hits in five innings pitched. Junior Kim Olson allowed an unearned run while pitching a hitless sixth inning. In all, four Wheaton Academy freshmen (Emily Anderson, Marissa Gagliano, Gina Graff, Sarah McClain) were 7-for-14 with four runs scored, a home run, a stolen base, and 3 runs batted in.

“It was good to get a win, especially in the league and home opener,” said Wheaton Academy head coach Todd Starowitz. “We struggled to get out of the first inning but I thought once we settled down we played pretty good softball. I was really pleased with the way that the bottom of our order swung the bats.”

Trailing 2-0 after the top of the first inning, freshman leadoff hitter Marissa Gagliano hit a home run into the pond beyond the leftfield fence on the very first pitch of her first career home game. Junior Emily Hillstrom singled in two more runs with two outs to give the Warriors a 3-2 lead after one inning.

“I’m sure that’s something that Marissa will always remember,” said Starowitz. “To hit a home run on the first pitch she ever saw in a game at the WA Softball Field is just really remarkable. She flat out crushed it. I was just as pleased to see Emily Hillstrom come in and get a huge two-out hit to drive in two really important runs for us. Here’s a young lady that didn’t start on a winless frosh/soph. team a year ago who has worked and worked and worked to become a contributing varsity player. I couldn’t be prouder of her.”

WA extended its lead to 5-2 in the top of the third inning on an RBI groundout by Olson and an RBI single by freshman Gina Graff.

Wheaton Academy added three more runs in the top of the fourth inning. Freshman catcher Emily Anderson, Gagliano, and junior second baseman Caitlin Koehler began the inning three consecutive hits,

the last which drove in Anderson. RBI groundouts by junior Bekah Heubner and Olson extended the lead to 8-2.

The Warriors plated five more runs in the top of the sixth inning to end the game. Gagliano recorded her third hit of the game to lead off the inning as the Warriors batted around. Other hits in the inning were recorded by Koehler and Anderson.

“It was good to see us extend the lead when we had the opportunity,” said Starowitz. “In some ways I was hoping to extend the game one more inning because Michelle Ridderhoff was all warmed up to pitch and we need to start getting her some innings because she’s a very talented young pitcher. In saying that, I was excited to see Emily Anderson drive another ball in the gap to end the game.”

Wheaton Academy travels to Aurora Central Catholic on Wednesday in an SCC tilt.

“Jim Hallahan is the new coach at Aurora Central Catholic and he’s done a tremendous job with his team,” said Starowitz. “They’ve already won as many games as they did last season and we’re just barely in to April. They have a win over Plano, a team that handled us really easily in our opener, and just yesterday they were tied with Lisle, one of the best 2A teams in the state of Illinois, after five innings. It will be a tremendous test for us.”