

April 6, 2011

Aurora Central Catholic 7, Wheaton Academy 5

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

WP – Ryan, 3 2/3 IP, OR, OER, OH, 3Ks, 1B

LP – Huizenga (1-3), 6 IP, 7R, 5 ER, 11H, 5Ks, 0BBs

2B – None

3B – None

HR - None

Aurora, Ill. – The Wheaton Academy softball team (1-4 overall, 1-1 SCC) dropped a 7-5 decision at Aurora Central Catholic on Wednesday afternoon. The Warriors led 5-1 midway through the third inning but ACC scored a run in the bottom of the third, three more in the bottom of the fourth, and two more in the bottom of the fifth to earn the victory. ACC pitcher Sarah Ryan entered the game with one out and two runners on in the bottom of the fourth inning and she retired the next two batters she faced to get out of the jam. She then did not allow a hit over the last three innings, only allowing one walk to begin the seventh inning. WA senior Paige Huizenga (1-3) sustained the loss as she allowed seven runs, five of which were earned, and 11 hits, while striking out five and walking none.

“This was a tough loss to take,” said Wheaton Academy head coach Todd Starowitz. “I never felt comfortable even with the 5-1 lead but we were playing well and then the momentum seemed to shift on a dime. ACC started to hit the ball, we made a few mistakes, and we stopped hitting. We just couldn’t get things swung back in our favor. ACC is an interesting team. They are being forced to play with a varsity team and a frosh/soph. team with only 18 total players. They take nine players to varsity games and nine to the frosh/soph. game. Because we don’t have a frosh/soph. team they had everyone at their disposal and it helped them yesterday. They played one of the state’s best 2A teams in Lisle on Tuesday with only nine players and were tied 2-2 after five innings. They were forced to change positions with a pitching change and the wheels fell off for them. They’re a vastly improved team from a year ago.”

WA pieced together two runs in the top of the first inning but had the potential for even more. Freshman shortstop Marissa Gagliano led off the inning with a walk and stole second base. Junior second baseman Caitlin Koehler then hit a ground ball to shortstop but Gagliano was called out for interfering with the ACC shortstop’s opportunity to catch the ball. Koehler reached first on the play but was picked off of first on a strong throw from ACC’s catcher Katie Callahan. With two outs junior centerfielder Bekah Heubner walked and stole second. Junior first baseman Kim Olson then reached on catcher’s obstruction. Huizenga then singled to score Heubner. Olson then scored on a failed pickoff

attempt at third base to provide the Warriors with a 2-0 advantage.

"I was really proud of our two out rally in the first inning, while at the same time lamenting that we could have had at least one more run on the board," said Starowitz.

ACC answered with one run in the bottom of the first. Centerfielder Crysta Hoffman led off the bottom of the first inning with a single, stole second, and scored on a two out single by pitcher Taylor LaVoy.

Wheaton Academy extended its lead to 4-1 in the top of the second inning. Freshman Gina Graff started the inning with a sharply hit single. She advanced to second on a perfect sacrifice bunt by freshman leftfielder Sarah McClain. Freshman catcher Emily Anderson then reached on a fielder's choice on a bunt that retired Graff at third base. After a foul out, junior Caitlin Koehler hit a sharply hit ball well to the right of the second baseman that she misplayed allowing both runs to score.

WA extended its lead to 5-1 in the top of the third inning. Olson led off the inning with a walk, advanced to second on another walk, and later scored on an RBI groundout to second base by Graff.

ACC added a run in the bottom of the third and three more in the bottom of the fourth when they opened the inning with four consecutive hits. With the game tied 5-5, ACC scored two more runs in the bottom of the fifth.

"Give credit to ACC for making things happen offensively," said Starowitz. "We also made too many mistakes. We dropped a ball on a 1st-and-3rd play where we had an opportunity to get an out. The good thing is that most of the mistakes that we made are correctable. We'll get back to work and get them fixed."

On the day, the bottom four hitters in the ACC lineup were 7-for-12. The top five hitters in the lineup were 4-for-18.

Wheaton Academy travels to Guerin Prep on Friday for a 4:30 p.m. first pitch. Guerin reached the IHSA 3A supersectionals last season and is off to a 6-2 start.

"Guerin is by far the best team we will have played to this point in the season," said Starowitz. "It will be a great learning experience for us to play a really good team. They are very well coached and they hit the ball all day long. They lost 4-3 earlier this season to an Elmwood Park, a team that just went out to California and were in some very tight games with several of the better teams in the entire country."