

April 11, 2011

Wheaton Academy 12, St. Edward 5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Wheaton Academy (4-4 overall, 2-1 SCC)	0	0	2	0	3	2	5	12	14	2
Elgin St. Edward	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	5	9	2

WP – Huizenga (3-3), 7 IP, 9H, 5R, 5ER, 4BBs, 6Ks

LP – Field, 6IP, 10H, 7R, 7ER, 7Ks, 4 BBs

2B – Gagliano 2 (WA), Kossakowski (St. Ed), Rolando (St. Ed)

3B – None

HR – Heubner 2 (2) (WA), Gagliano 1 (2) (WA)

Elgin, Ill. – The Wheaton Academy softball team (4-4 overall, 2-1 SCC) earned its fourth win in five outings and its first crossover win since WA joined the Suburban Christian Conference last year with a 12-5 victory over Elgin St. Edward at the Elgin Sports Complex Monday afternoon. Junior centerfielder Bekah Heubner paced the Warriors with two home runs and six runs batted in. Freshman shortstop Marissa Gagliano was 4-for-5 with one home run, two doubles, and four runs scored and junior second baseman Caitlin Koehler was also 4-for-5 with two RBI.

“This may very well be our best victory in the two-plus years I’ve been coaching at WA,” said head coach Todd Starowitz. “The girls played with tremendous energy, made a minimal number of mistakes, and hit the ball really well against a pitcher who has been one of the best 2A pitchers in the area for quite a long time. We had no runs and only two hits against her last year. St. Ed’s catcher, Tarah McShane, is playing at Division I Valparaiso next year and is a very good player. This is really our first win in the last three years that I’m sure opened a few eyes when people saw the score in the paper this morning. St. Ed’s had played a very demanding schedule early in the season and has played some very good teams very competitively, including a recent 3-0 loss to a very strong Nazareth squad.”

Huizenga (3-3) earned the victory in the circle for the Warriors. She scattered nine hits and five earned runs, while walking four and striking out six.

Wheaton Academy threatened to score in the top of the first when Gagliano led off the game with a sharply hit double but neither team tallied until the top of the third inning. In that frame, freshman catcher Emily Anderson led off the inning with a single. Gagliano followed with a single of her own and Koehler drove in two runs on a single to stake the Warriors to a 2-0 lead.

St. Ed’s pulled to within 2-1 in the bottom of the third when McShane drew a two-out walk, stole second, and scored on a single by pitcher Sarah Field, who has been an all-area and all-SCC selection in

the circle the last several years.

The Green Wave tied the game at 2-2 in the bottom of the fourth inning on a single, a sacrifice bunt, and another single.

The Warriors captured a 5-2 lead with three runs in the top of the fifth inning. Gagliano led off the inning with a walk and advanced to second on a single by Koehler. Heubner then hit a towering home run to score all three runs.

“It was so great to see Bekah break out today,” said Starowitz. “She’s such a good hitter but she’s really been struggling. She’s worked so hard and to see her have such success today was awesome. Coach Thompson has been spending a lot of time with her and that’s helped her a lot.”

St. Ed’s wouldn’t go away and pulled to within 5-3 with a single run in the bottom of the fifth.

WA added two more runs in the bottom of the sixth to secure a 7-3 lead. Freshman leftfielder Sarah McClain led off the inning with a walk and Gagliano hit a line shot home run with one out to extend WA’s lead.

The Green Wave scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth when Kali Kossakowski hit a two-out double. Ashley Gradisher followed with a single and both runners scored on an opposite field single by McShane.

“We were very intentional about not giving Tarah very much to hit because she’s such a powerful hitter,” said Starowitz. “I know she was getting frustrated. She made us pay in the sixth when she reached out and got one on us.”

WA broke open the game in the top of the seventh inning scoring five runs to secure the final 12-5 advantage. Gagliano doubled and Heubner homered in the inning.

“We still have a long way to go but we are improving and we have room for so much more growth,” said Starowitz. “We said all along that this team would struggle in April but had a chance to play good softball by May. This is such a fun team to coach because the girls really like one another, they work very hard, and they are enjoying softball right now even after our rough start. Our freshmen at the bottom of the lineup have kind of been carrying us so it was great to see Caitlin Koehler and Bekah Heubner contribute so heavily today. I thought Paige also threw very well. She had some good hitters really off balance. Tomorrow is a big game for us at Walther Lutheran. They are much improved and we don’t want to take a step backward. We need to keep improving.”