

May 2, 2011

Wheaton Academy 17, Marian Central 5 (5 inn.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Marian Central Catholic	1	0	1	1	2	x	x	5	7	7
Wheaton Academy (6-9 overall, 4-3 SCC)	5	6	0	6	x	x	x	17	10	2

WP – Huizenga (5-7), 5 IP, 5 R, 3 ER, 1BB

LP – Wachholder

2B – Hoepner (WA), E. Anderson (WA), Olson (WA), Einecker (MC)

3B – Heubner (WA)

West Chicago, Ill. – Wheaton Academy (6-9 overall, 4-3 SCC) recorded its second SCC crossover win of the season with a 17-5 (5 inn.) victory over Marian Central Catholic on Monday afternoon. The Warriors, who were playing without leading hitter freshman Marissa Gagliano (ankle), batted around in both the first and second innings to race to a 11-1 advantage after two stanzas. Senior Paige Huizenga (5-7) earned the victory in the circle for the Warriors. The Warriors were paced by junior first baseman Kim Olson (2-for-4, double, 3 RBI), junior shortstop Bekah Heubner (triple, 3 RBI), freshman catcher Emily Anderson (2-for-3 with a double and run scored), freshman rightfielder Gina Graff (2-for-4 with 2 RBI and 3 runs scored), senior pitcher Paige Huizenga (single and two runs scored), junior second baseman Caitlin Koehler (single and two runs scored), and junior designated player Emily Hillstrom (RBI ground out and a run scored).

“This was a really good win for us today,” said WA head coach Todd Starowitz. “Marian handled us really easily a year ago and after playing so poorly on Friday at Guerin I really didn’t know what to expect today. The girls really responded and to do so with Marissa out of the lineup was even more encouraging. It was just a really good effort and it was nice to see so many different girls hit and contribute. Marian has three league wins and has lost one-run games to Elgin St. Edward and Rosary so they’ve played some very good softball.”

After Marian plated a run in the top of the first, WA answered with five runs in the bottom half of the inning to take a 5-0 lead. Koehler led off the inning with a walk and stole second. She advanced to third on a single by Huizenga. With two outs, Graff reached on an error that scored Koehler. Hoepner then hit a double that scored Huizenga and Olson singled to score Graff. Junior Emily Hillstrom then hit a flare to rightfield that could have been caught by the Hurricanes rightfielder but it dropped and Hoepner and Olson scored on the play.

“We really needed something good to happen offensively and to get so much done with two outs was great,” said Starowitz. “Kim Olson is a good hitter who had a really tough April so it was good to get her in the mix. It’s also been great to see Jordyn hit the ball really hard the last two games. Jordyn’s someone who has had to sit more this year than she did last year but she’s been inserted into the lineup lately and she’s really responded well.”

WA broke open the game in the second inning with six more runs. With one out and Huizenga, who had reached on a fielder’s choice, on second, Heubner reached on an error. Graff then followed with an RBI single. With the bases loaded, Hoepner was hit by a pitch. Olson then reached on an error and Hillstrom followed with an RBI ground out. Emily Anderson then followed with a double and scored on an RBI single by Koehler to push WA’s lead to 11-1.

Marian chipped away and scored single runs in the third and fourth innings to cut the lead to 11-3 but Wheaton Academy plated six more runs in the bottom of the fourth to extend the lead to 17-3. Heubner hit a bases loaded triple, Graff singled to score Heubner, and Olson doubled to score Hoepner and Graff.

“We’ll practice today and face an improved Walther Lutheran team at home on Wednesday,” said Starowitz. “We are now 4-3 in the SCC and squarely in the race for the SCC Gold title. Immaculate Conception and Guerin are still clearly the favorites but it’s great to be in the race nearing the midpoint of the conference schedule. Our goal all along has been to be a very good team by May. We haven’t played as many games as we expected to have played at this point because of all of the rain but now it’s May. Who are we as a team? I still don’t think we really know yet, from game-to-game or even from inning-to-inning.”