

April 13, 2011

**Wheaton Academy 13, Walther Lutheran 2 (5 inn.)**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Wheaton Academy (4-4 overall, 2-1 SCC)	3	4	4	0	2	x	x	13	10	1
Walther Lutheran	0	0	2	0	0	x	x	2	4	5

WP – Huizenga (4-3), 3 IP, 3H, 2R, 0ER, 3Ks, 0 BBs

LP – Mullen, 4IP, 11R, 6ER, 9H, 5BBs, 4Ks

2B – Koehler (WA), McClain (WA)

3B – Heubner (WA)

HR – None

Melrose Park, Ill. – The Wheaton Academy softball team (5-4 overall, 3-1 SCC) earned a 13-2 (5 inn.) victory over host Walther Lutheran on Wednesday afternoon. The win was the fifth in the last six outings for the Warriors. The Warriors plated three runs in the top of the first and led 11-2 after three innings. Junior centerfielder Bekah Heubner was 2-for-3 with a triple, five RBI, and two runs scored, junior second baseman Caitlin Koehler was 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI, and two runs scored, freshman shortstop Marissa Gagliano was 2-for-3 with two RBI and two runs scored, freshman leftfielder Sarah McClain was 2-for-3 with a double and two runs scored, and freshman catcher Emily Anderson was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Senior Paige Huizenga (4-3) worked the first three innings and allowed three hits and two unearned runs, while walking none and striking out three. Junior Kim Olson pitched two innings of relief and allowed no runs on one hit and one walk, while striking out two.

“I was pleased with the win,” said WA head coach Todd Starowitz. “I thought we were a little flat in warm-ups but we got off to a really good start once the game began. I thought we played fast and aggressively to begin the game and we really played well defensively.”

Wheaton Academy secured a 3-0 advantage in the top of the first inning. Gagliano led off the inning with a single and stole second. She scored on a double by Koehler, who scored on the play when a throw from the outfield went out of play. Heubner then walked, stole second, and scored on an error.

WA added four more runs in the top of the second inning. McClain led off the inning with a double and advanced to third on a single by Anderson. McClain scored on a single by Gagliano and Anderson scored on a single by Koehler. Both runners would later go on to score on a defensive miscue.

The Warriors really broke open the game with four additional runs in the top of the third inning. The key

hits in the inning were another single by Anderson as well as a single by Heubner that plated three runs. Heubner also hit a triple and drove in a run in the top of the fifth inning.

“It gets much tougher from here,” said Starowitz. “The softer portion of our schedule is over but I at least feel that we’ve improved enough that we can more effectively compete with some of the better teams we face. That played out a little bit against St. Edward earlier this week but we’ll have to see if it’s the case against some of the other good teams in our league. I just really don’t know at this point.”

The tests begin on Friday when Wheaton Academy hosts defending SCC Gold champion Immaculate Conception. The first pitch is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, WA travels to Fenton for a doubleheader against the 3A state-ranked Bison.

“We’ll be tested in every possible way on Friday and again on Saturday,” said Starowitz. “IC is the defending SCC Gold champ, has a future Division I shortstop who is going to Indiana, and is very well coached. They are playing really well right now. Fenton has played one of the more challenging schedules of any 3A team in the state. Again, an extremely well coached team and they are just very, very good. I just still don’t know enough about our team to understand how we’ll compete against these teams. I do know that we have a smart group of girls who are playing with great energy and a wonderful passion for softball right now. That certainly helps.”