

Softball

Troy-Milton



Troy's Amber Smith winds up and pitches Saturday against Milton-Union.

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the fifth.

"We just weren't focused (in the first few innings)," Schaefer said. "I just told them they need to start playing better, and we did. They got 3-0 counts on us a couple times. Usually that's when I give them a take sign, but I just told them to swing away. It paid off — we ended up getting a triple and a double out of it."

The Trojans couldn't recover, scattering seven hits against Milton-Union's Ashley Smith — who finished the game with nine strikeouts. Smith closed the Trojans out in the last two innings, facing only seven hitters and fanning two to seal the game for the Bulldogs.

"We played good defense the whole game," Schaefer said. "Ashley pitched a good game. We left some runners out there that we shouldn't have, and some of that was baserunning mistakes. But overall, it was a good win."

"Milton's a good team — a well-coached team," Troy coach Scott Herman said. "We were in the game, and I told the girls to keep their heads up. We had seven hits, had them spread out a little bit, which is better. We're going to take from this game. It's a positive."

Mackenzie Dankworth beat out an infield single in the bottom of the fourth, followed by a blooper by Allison Pierce that put runners on first and third. Lehmann attempted a suicide squeeze with one out, but Ashley Smith threw home and got the lead runner, finishing off the inning unscathed.

Ashley Smith went 2 for 3 and had a stolen base, Heisey went 2 for 4 with a stolen base and an RBI and Booher had a 2 for 3 day at the plate.

Brooke Evans and Pierce each went 2 for 3, while Brittany Sowers got



Milton-Union pitcher Ashley Smith fields the ball and fires to first Saturday against Troy.

her first career varsity hit for the Trojans in the losing effort.

M-U 200 003 1 — 6 9 0
Troy 020 000 0 — 2 7 2
Ashley Smith and Booher. Smith and Lehmann. WP — Ashley Smith. LP — Amber Smith. 2B — Ashley Smith (M-U), Chloe Smith (M-U), 3B — Heisey (M-U), Booher (M-U). HR — Lehmann (T). **Records:** M-U 5-2. Troy 2-5.

Triad 12, Troy 7
Troy also encountered trouble facing off against Triad, losing 12-7.

The loss, however, didn't come without positives.

"If there is such a thing as a quality loss, this is one of them," Herman said. "Triad is probably the best team we have faced this year. We are going to take positives from both these games today as we move forward. Both of those teams are very good."

Troy shook off the rust at the plate in the second game, touching up Triad for 14 hits. Pierce — a freshman — was given the 'franchise tag' by her coach after going 4 for 4 with four RBIs. Evans also went 4 for 4 and added two runs scored and an RBI. Lehman had two doubles.

"Last year, there were some games where we got blown out. This year, we have been in every single game," Herman said. "As a coaching staff, we're learning too. The makeup of this team is a little different now. We've got a junior pitcher in Amber Smith



Troy's Jennifer Lehmann is congratulated by coach Scott Herman after hitting a home run against Milton-Union Saturday.

and a freshman coming in. We're still trying to figure out how to use some of these kids, so, there's some stuff to come here on how we're going to use them."

The Trojans (2-5) open up Greater Western Ohio Conference North Division play on Monday at Sidney.

Triad 7, M-U 6
In its second game of the day, Milton-Union lost to Triad, 7-6.

MLB

Reds rout Giants

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Given another chance to make the Cincinnati Reds' opening-day roster, Jeff Francis responded with his best outing of the spring.

Francis allowed two runs on three hits over seven innings and the Reds routed the San Francisco Giants 10-2 on Saturday.

"That was big time right there," Reds manager Dusty Baker.

Francis' future with the Reds appeared in doubt Monday, when he yielded 11 runs and 11 hits in three innings against the Texas Rangers. The left-hander could have opted out of his minor league contract if he hadn't been added to the Reds' 25-man roster by Thursday but elected to remain with the club.

"It was better," Francis said. "I talked to (pitching coach) Bryan (Price) after (the last game) and I had better pitch selection early on. It got me in a better groove. Going seven innings is a sign that I'm ready for the season, wherever it is."

Auto Racing



Kasey Kahne smiles after winning the pole position during qualifying for today's Sprint Cup race at Martinsville Speedway Saturday in Martinsville, Va.

Kahne wins Sprint pole

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (AP) — Kasey Kahne is the first two-time pole winner of the season in NASCAR's Sprint Cup Series after he posted the fastest lap in qualifying Saturday at Martinsville Speedway.

He'll start the race 27th in points, and hopes it's the start of a turnaround in fortune.

"We have had great Friday and Saturdays and just haven't put together a Sunday yet," the Hendrick Motorsports driver said. "Hopefully tomorrow will be a nice start to a really good season."

Kahne, who also start-

ed first at Las Vegas, toured the 0.526-mile oval at 97.126 mph, depriving Kevin Harvick of a sweep of weekend qualifying at the track. Harvick, who won the pole for Saturday's truck series race earlier, had a run at 97.048.

The pole is the 24th of Kahne's career, and first in 17 starts on the oldest, shortest track in the premier series. He said patience will be key at the start in Sunday's 500-lap event.

"When you come to Martinsville, until about lap 250 you really don't know what you have," he

said. "You can lead the race early, you can slide around and be slow early and after about lap 250, 300, that is when you finally realize how good your car is or how bad it is."

That's a lesson it took Harvick years to learn, and he won here a year ago.

"For many years I couldn't finish in the top 10," he said. "It has just taken a while to get to this point. All in all, we have had a good couple-year run. You never know when it will end, but all in all it has been pretty good for us lately."

Chloe Smith had a monster game, going 3 for 4 with two doubles and three RBIs, Ashley Smith went 2 for 3 and had two RBIs, Andrea Fetters — who went the distance but got the loss on the hill — was 2 for 3, Heisey had another solid showing, going 2 for 3 and Kayla Smith also was 2 for 3 in the defeat.

The Bulldogs (5-2) host Madison on Monday.

Baseball/Softball



PHOTO COURTESY LEE WOOLERY/SPEEDSHOT PHOTO
Troy's Nick Antonides follows through on a swing Saturday against Fairmont.

Roundup

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Trojans in the opener, but that was the extent of Troy's offensive production, as Fairmont's pitchers only gave up three hits total.

"Our offensive approach wasn't good in the first game," Welker said. "We really struggled at the plate. We need to get better in that aspect."

Troy's bats came alive in the next game, racking up nine hits in total. Nathan Helke went 2 for 4 with a double and triple, two RBIs and two runs scored. Jordan Guillozet went 2 for 4 with a double and two RBIs. Kyle Croft pitched an inspired three innings for the Trojans, but Helke came on in relief in the fourth to pick up the win.

"Kyle Croft went out and battled for three innings," Welker said. "He did his job. He only gave up two runs, which kept us in the game. Nathan came on and did his job on the mound. He also had a couple big at-bats that helped us win the game."

Bethel 7, NRidge 4;
Bethel 5, NRidge 0

BRANDT — The Bethel Bees remain undefeated after Saturday, beating Northridge 7-4 and 5-0 in a doubleheader on Saturday and improving to 5-0 on the season.

Luke Veldman struck out eight in five innings of work, while Jimmy Pelphrey came on to strike out two in the seventh and get the save in the opener. Jordan Elam went 2 for 3 and had two RBIs, Colin Hoke added a double in the win.

Jon Ellerbrock went 3 for 4 with an RBI, Joe Zimmerman went 2 for 3 with an RBI and Elam was 2 for 3 as the Bees recorded nine hits in the second game. Meanwhile, Elam was solid on the mound, giving up four hits and striking out eight batters to get the win.

"I thought we swung the bats real well," Bethel coach Brett Brookhart said. "We got real good pitching all around, but we need to tighten up defensively in some areas. But overall, we had a great day."

TC 14, MV 4 (5);
MV5, TC 2 (8)

TROY — The Troy Christian Eagles routed Mississinawa Valley 14-4 in the first game Saturday, with Michael Seagraves leading the team by going 3 for 4 with a double at the plate.

But in the second game, the Blackhawks tied the game in the sixth inning, forcing extra innings and winning in the eighth, 5-2.

"We left eight in scoring position (in the second game), and we just couldn't find ways to manufacture runs," Troy Christian coach said. "All four of our errors (on defense) came at bad times, and that cost us. We had three walked batters in the last inning and two errors. They had one hit there in that span, so a lot of that was self-inflicted."

Softball
ME 3, LW 1;
Turpin 4, ME 0

WEST CHESTER — Battling a pair of Division I teams, Miami East came away with a split on Saturday, beating Lakota West 3-1 in the first game, then falling to Cincinnati Turpin by a score of 4-0 in the second.

Paige Kiesewetter sizzled on the mound in the opener, holding Lakota West to only three hits and one run to get the win. Christy Brown led the East offense with a 2 for 4 day at the plate, including an RBI double.

Despite getting seven hits against Turpin, East could never manufacture a run.

"These were two good Division I teams that we were playing," Miami East coach Brian Kadel said. "The girls are disappointed they didn't get both games, but that's OK. They played good against Lakota West — a team with regional and state experience. I thought we showed a lot of character in both games. Overall, it was a good day against two good teams."

Versailles 15,
Newton 10 (10)

PLEASANT HILL — The Newton Indians battled back when they were down.

But in the end, 11 errors made all the difference in a 15-10 loss to Versailles in 10 innings.

Marina Snipes hit a homer and went 3 for 5 for the Indians.

"This was not one of our better days," Newton coach Kirk Kadel said. "Our pitching and fielding weren't sharp. We came back and tied the game in the last inning, but in the 10th, Versailles was able to push some runs across."

Greenon 17,
Bethel 10 (8)

BRANDT — The Bethel Bees sent the game into extra innings, scoring a run in the seventh to tie Greenon up at 8-8. But a nine-run eighth inning by Greenon doomed Bethel, losing 17-10 in eight.

Kendal Keough, Katie Laycock, Cheyanna Turner, Macy Reitz and Kember Wenrick all had big hits to help Bethel tie the game. Lindsey Nesbitt went the distance on the hill for the Bees, striking out two batters.

"This is the first time Nesbitt had to go that many innings, and I thought she did a nice job," Bethel coach Dennis Lawson said. We saw a little bit of everything, from good plays to bad plays.

"In the eighth, Greenon had some big hits, and we made some very costly errors."

Bradford 5, ML 3;
Bradford 8, ML 7

MARIA STEIN — Bradford edged Marion Local in two games on Saturday, winning 5-3 in the first and by a count of 8-7 in the second.

Ali Bashore went 2 for 3 to lead the Railroaders in the first game, while Brooke Dunlevy went 1 for 2 with a double. Haley Patty had 11 strikeouts to only four walks in a winning effort on the mound.

In the second game, Bradford took an early 5-2 lead, but Marion came back to go up 7-6 in the top of the seventh. Alisha Patty led off the seventh with a double, then scored on Michayla Barga single. Katie Miller walked, then Jayde Mead — who got the win on the mound — nailed a shot down the third baseline to plate the winning run.

Alisha Patty and Courtney Miller both went 2 for 4 with a double, while Mead went 2 for 2 with a double.