

Softball

Vikings



Miami East's Kris Bigelow lays down a bunt.

CONTINUED FROM A7 time.

"Our seniors' freshman year, we made it to the regional. And I know they were not satisfied with the game against Felicity here last year," Miami East coach Brian Kadel said. "I don't want to say it was a redemption thing, but I knew the girls were absolutely not going to let the same thing happen again."

Try as they might, though, Sturgis kept the Vikings from breaking through.

Miami East left a runner at second in the first inning, then the Vikings couldn't cash in a leadoff double by Christine Bowling in the second despite having runners on second and third with two outs. A two-out double by Paige Mullen in the fourth netted nothing, also, and in the top of the seventh they loaded the bases with two



Miami East pitcher Paige Kiesewetter delivers a pitch during a game against Madison Saturday in Tipp City.

outs with the help of a double by Madison Linn, an error and a nine-pitch walk by Olivia Edgell — but Madison left fielder Rylie Markle came running in and snared a bloop before it could land to end the threat.

Altogether, the Vikings stranded 11 runners in the game.

Kiesewetter, meanwhile, just kept getting stronger. After getting out of a first-and-second jam with one out in the second, she didn't allow a Mohawk runner to reach scoring

position again until the sixth. Five of her eight strikeouts also came after the third inning.

"I just find a groove," she said. "I feel it in my arm. It just gets really relaxed. It's like a noodle, and can't feel it anymore. Once I get to that point, I know I'm rolling."

Still, she knew she needed some run support — and she also had confidence that it would come.

"Sure there's pressure, but we were hitting it hard. Just right at them," she said. "I knew one was going

to get through eventually." It just took one extra inning.

Kiesewetter led off the top of the eighth with a single, then Bowling pushed a bunt down the line at first for a single too. A wild pitch moved the runners to second and third, but the runner couldn't score on a groundout to short.

Sarah O'Neal bunted her way on to load the bases, bringing up Bigelow with one out.

"We are a senior-led team, for sure," Kadel said. "We start six of them. But



Miami East's Rian Kingrey reaches second base.

those girls also have every last bit of confidence in our junior at first (Sam Denlinger), our sophomore in center (Bigelow) and our sophomore at third (Edgell). I felt good about Kris being up. She'd hit the ball hard, and I felt like she was due."

Bigelow felt even better. "I was dead set on getting a hit. There was no way I wasn't going to," Bigelow said. "I looked out and said 'I'm going to hit it right there.' And that's where it went."

Bigelow drove a double to the gap in right-center, plating the only two runs of the game. Sturgis was able to get out of the inning without any further damage — but any damage at all was too much the way Kiesewetter threw.

Bigelow also made a pair of catches in center in

the bottom of the eighth, but Madison did get a one-out double out of Bekah Lenos. It didn't matter, though, as Kiesewetter induced a groundout to Bowling at short for the final out of the game.

"These seniors were pretty determined," Kadel said. "They want to make it as far as they can. The longer a game goes on, the more comfortable I feel."

The Vikings will face Clermont Northeastern in the regional semifinal round Thursday at Wright State University.

Where they'll look to make a fresh, new memory.

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Kiesewetter and O'Neal, Sturgis and A. Lenos. WP — Kiesewetter. LP — Sturgis. 2B — Bowling (E), Mullen (E), Linn (E), Bigelow (E), B. Lenos (M). **Records:** Miami East 23-6, Madison 20-7.

Baseball

Roundup

CONTINUED FROM A7 three-run inning — with Austin Hadden's single scoring the go-ahead run and lifting the Devils to a 5-3 win at Mason High School.

"This was an intense atmosphere," Cahill said. "They brought a lot of people, we had our fans and it was a huge crowd. It was a tough game. It was the type of game you want to be a part of."

Pitcher Ben Hughes worked his way out of a few jams early on but was able to overcome rocky start to improve to 8-0 on the season. He recorded seven strikeouts and had six walks in a complete-game effort. He did, however, retire the last eight batters he faced to close out the game.

Carter Langdon's double gave Tipp a 1-0 lead in the first, then Cole Quillen had an RBI single in the second. Alter took a 3-2 lead in the top of the fourth before Langdon's RBI single tied the score in the fifth.

Langdon finished the game 3 for 3 with a pair of doubles and two RBIs,

while Quillen went 2 for 3. Austin Clack had a diving catch in the outfield, which got the Devils out a jam with two outs and two on in the first inning.

Tipp (27-4) faces Franklin in the Division II regional semifinal round at 2 p.m. Thursday at the University of Dayton.

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Hughes and Donathan. WP — Hughes (8-0). 2B — Langdon (2) (T). **Records:** Tipp 27-4.

• **Softball**
Covington 17, Franklin Monroe 0

One game at a time has been the focus all season by the Covington softball team and that mental approach didn't change in the district championship game on Saturday at Brookville High School as the Buccs run-ruled Franklin Monroe 17-0 in five innings.

Marion Local advanced to the regional tournament by winning the Wapakoneta District with a 9-8 win over Dola Hardin Northern on Friday. The Buccs will battle the Flyers in the regional semifinal at 5 p.m. on Thursday at Tipp City.

Tennis

Brumbaugh, M-U doubles team place 4th

Staff Reports

Even after losing both matches on Saturday, Milton-Union's Matt Brumbaugh still enjoyed the second day of the Division II district tournament a little more than last year's second day.

Already knowing you'll be going to state has its perks.

After Brumbaugh and the Bulldog doubles team of Kenton Dickison and Jack Blevins both swept Thursday's action and reached the semifinal round, their tickets to next week's state tournament were already assured. Both finished fourth place, also, with seeding to be held early in the week.

Brumbaugh lost 6-4, 6-1 to Asher Hirsch, then he dropped his second match 6-4, 6-4 to Seven Hills' John Larkin.

"I asked Matt how the

trip was this year, and he said it was better," Milton-Union coach Roger Davidson said. "Last year, he had to fight to get to state on Saturday. It's definitely a better feeling already knowing you're going."

Dickison and Blevins — who scored something of an upset to reach the district semifinal round — lost to CHCA's Ben Wittkuge and Colin Kenney in three sets 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 to start Saturday, then fell 6-2, 6-3 to Seven Hills' Henry Head and Sam Ellis to place fourth.

"Jack and Kenton were just surprised to be there," Davidson said. "They said it was a great trip knowing that they'd already qualified."

The state tournament begins at 9 a.m. Friday at Ohio State University.

Baseball

Trojans

CONTINUED FROM A7 the bottom of the fourth), then we fought back and scored two in the next inning to take the lead," Troy coach Ty Welker said. "Then they got six on a bunch of errors and just a lack of focus on our part. But those things happen. It's no one's fault."

"We just didn't make any plays in that inning. But that's part of baseball."

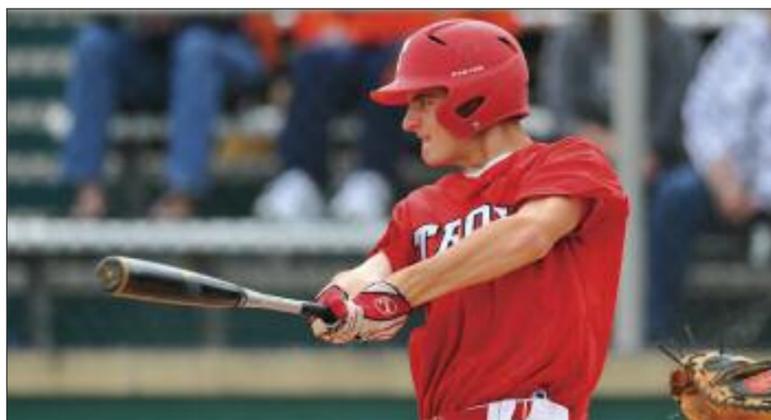
The Thunderhawks broke the scoreless tie in the bottom of the fourth on an error, also. A leadoff infield single and a walk put runners on, they advanced on a bunt and a hit-batter loaded the bases with one out. Troy starter Ben Langdon got a grounder up the middle and shortstop Dylan Cascaden fielded it, tagged second, leapt to avoid the sliding runner and threw to first. But the throw sailed wide and into the outfield, allowing one run to score. Another runner tried to score, but right fielder Greg Johnson gunned him out to complete a double play — just not the one the Trojans had wanted.

Troy fought back immediately, though. Alex Magoteaux and Johnson hit back-to-back one-out singles to bring up Nadolny, and the senior catcher promptly blasted a double to the gap in left-center. Magoteaux tied the game, and Johnson came around all the way from first to give Troy the lead.

Then came the bottom of the inning.

A leadoff walk, a stolen base and a sacrifice bunt put the tying run on third, and another walk put runners on the corners. Brett Colburn dropped down a suicide squeeze attempt, but Langdon couldn't come up with it to get the out at first and the score was tied. An error on a rundown moved the runners up, and yet another walk loaded the bases.

Langdon got a grounder to second and Nick Sanders threw home, but Nadolny couldn't handle the throw and the run scored just



Troy's Cam Weaver makes contact during a game against Lakota East Saturday in Cincinnati.

before he picked the ball up to score the go-ahead run. A groundout to first allowed another run to score, and another walk loaded the bases. Adam Delaet then came up with the inning's first actual hit, a two-run single that made it a 6-2 game. An infield single re-loaded the bases, and one last walk brought in the sixth run before a flyout ended the inning.

Troy did what it could to bounce back.

Cam Weaver and Devin Blakely — who both went 2 for 3 in the game — both singled with one out in the top of the sixth, then Cascaden brought Weaver in with a solid RBI single to center that chased starter Andy Aimquist. In came Evan Person, who struck out the next two batters to end the inning and turned a one-four-three double play to end the game in the seventh.

"In those last two innings, we battled," Welker said. "The guys had no quit in them, and I couldn't be more proud of them."

Particularly considering everything they accomplished this year.

"We had 19 wins, knocked off Centerville — one of the top five teams in the state. We tied for second in the GWOC North. Would have liked to have won it again, but we made the district finals," Welker said.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEE WOOLERY/SPEEDSHOT PHOTO



Troy's Devin Blakely gets one of his two hits on the day.

"And Lakota East is a top 10 team in the state and we took the lead in the bottom of the fifth. We have nothing to be ashamed of."

"If we learned anything from this year, it's that we can play with anybody."

And while the seniors will be missed, Troy knows its future is still bright.

"Our seniors have been great. They've contributed a lot over the years, and we owe a lot of this right now to

them," Welker said. "But I'll probably start thinking about next year tomorrow. These guys have had a taste of it now, a taste of what it's like to be a top-notch program. And they'll want more."

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Langdon, Croft (5), Wood (6) and Nadolny. Aimquist, Person (6) and Rindfleisch. WP — Aimquist. LP — Langdon. SV — Person. 2B — Nadolny (T). **Records:** Troy 19-12, Lakota East 26-3.

Major League Baseball

Reds beat fading Cubs 5-2

CINCINNATI (AP) — Dusty Baker doesn't like the suicide squeeze bunt too many things can go wrong. The way things are going for the Cincinnati Reds these days, he needn't worry.

The Reds used another big inning one featuring a perfectly executed squeeze to beat the Chicago Cubs 5-2 on Sunday for their fifth win in a row. Todd Frazier drove in a pair of runs

with a sacrifice fly and a single, and Derrick Robinson pulled off the bunt that put the Reds ahead to stay.

"Just an outstanding inning," Baker said.

Just one inning to an

outstanding start.

The Reds have won 13 of their last 16 games, surging to 31-18. It's their best start since 1995, when they reached the NL championship series and got swept by Atlanta.