THE CRUSADER SPORTS FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2001

17

Softball strikes out against Harvard

Crimson stop Lady ‘Saders league winning streak at three

BY CHRISTOPHER ENMAN
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The Holy Cross Softball team had a great weekend, but a not so good week, as they swept host Lafayette, taking 3 games from the Leopards, but were then swept by host Harvard on Wednesday.

The first game against the Leopards was an 8-3 victory for the ‘Saders. Shortstop Shelly Richard had two hits and two RBI’s, senior tri-captain Jamie Olenoski had two hits, scored two runs and drove in one, and senior Julie Sees had a clutch pinch hit RBI double, and added a run of her own later.

The key to the game was balance, something that the team has shown all year. The team is loaded with potent hitters, making it difficult to pitch around anyone in the lineup. In some instances, coach Neville can take any batter off the pine and put them into the game without any hesitation, like he did with Sees last weekend. The hitters on the team went the entire game without striking out once, a great tool to have against league opponents.

Pitcher Nicole Vitti went all seven innings, giving up five hits, walking four and striking out two. The victory was her first of the year.

Game two was a different story. Holy Cross came out on top by a score of 3-2. The hitting was led by Christine Palmeri, who went 2-for-3, with a run scored and an RBI, as well as Oleneski again, who went 1-for-2 and scored the other two Crusader runs. Catcher Melisa Beshire went 1-for-3, hitting a triple, as well as knocking in two runs to seal the victory.

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The night cap was a 5-1 HC victory, leaving them off to a good start in league play with a record of 3-0. Pitching again proved to be the key, as Megan Manner went the distance just like her previous two teammates, allowing just one earned run on six hits while walking four and fanning three.

The only batter with multiple hits during the game was Beshire, who went 2-for-3 with a RBI. The ‘Saders got on the board early in this contest, scoring 4 runs in the top of the first inning en route to their sweep of the triple-header. Oleneski reached base twice, each on walks, and scored two runs.

On Wednesday the team traveled to Boston, where they played the Crimson of Harvard. The opening game did not get well for the Lady ‘Sader hitters, as they were held hitless by a pair of Harvard pitchers. The only time anyone from HC reached base was on five walks by the Crimson pitchers. HC pitcher Caitlin McCarthy held her own throughout the game, allowing just two runs on eight hits, while striking out three and not walking a batter.

The nightcap did not serve any better, as the Lady ‘Saders travel again this weekend, this time to Lehigh. Coach Neville feels confident with the way the team has played thus far, and believes that his team will make some noise this year in league play. If the team can manage another sweep down in Pennsylvania, it will put them in the driver’s seat at 5-0 heading into a set of home games against Bucknell over Easter weekend. Good luck Ladies.

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