By Brad Holzwarth

**CRUSADERS SPORTS STAFF**

It was a turbulent week for the Lady Crusader Softball squad as they went 2-6 in games versus non-league opponents Rhode Island and Boston College as well as Patriot League rival Colgate.

Rutgers, a Big Ten team, defeated the Crusaders 16-5 on April 18 while their visit to Vermont on April 19 ended in a 9-3 loss to the Catamounts.

The Lady Crusaders fell to 4-5 in league play.

**Taking it to the next level: Dave Poluka and Josh Sankes**

Dave Poluka signed a contract with the Cincinnati Bengals over the weekend.

McCarthy and Senior Jazie Sees began rallying the Crusaders; however, the threat ended when Rack entered the game in relief. After walking in Holy Cross’ third run, Rack was able to save face by inducing a pop up to tally the win.

Freshman Christine Palmeri pitched the complete game for HC giving up six hits, her record fell to 4-3. Palmeri was named Patriot League Softball Pitcher of the Week. The previous weekend, Palmeri allowed just five hits and one unearned run to complement five strikeouts and a mere one walk in nine innings of work in a double header versus Bucknell.

The Lady ‘Saders took Freshman Field once again to face Patriot League foe and fifth place Colgate on April 21 and 22. The 21st saw both teams trade shutouts. Freshman Nicole Vitti was at the helm for Holy Cross as she pitched her team to a 0-0 victory in game one. Vitti gave up a scant five hits and rang up five strikeouts to improve her record to 4-5 on the year. She would eventually be named Patriot League Softball Pitcher of the Week.

Junior Jazie Sees dominated the field once again en route to an 8-1 victory. HC’s Caitlyn McCarthy took the loss on the mound pitching four innings and giving up nine hits after facing 24 batters. She shared the game with Megan Manner who pitched three innings giving up two runs and no hits.

The Lady ‘Saders were unable to get there offense started as they were smothered by Junior pitcher Gwen Rack from RI. Rack struck out nine and gave up mere four hits notching her third victory of the year.

Game two saw a Rhode Island offensive explosion in the second inning as they touched home five times on their way to sweeping the day. Holy Cross was unable to recover, only able to pull within four runs. Back-to-back doubles by McCarthy and Senior Jazie Sees began rallying the Crusaders; however, the threat ended when Rack entered the game in relief. After walking in Holy Cross’ third run, Rack was able to save face by inducing a pop up to tally the win.

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The following day, both teams squared off in yet another double header which culminated in a split. Game one saw Holy Cross jump up in front 1-0 when Sophomore Lyndzie Curll blasted a two run home run in the sixth to drive in two. Summer Jarratt would eventually add one more before they were shutout of the weekend by tallying up seven hits while giving up only one unearned run to compliment the HCs offense. Senior Jamie Oleonick would eventually pitch her way out of the sixth inning forcing Colgate to leave runners on first and second.

Tackling on beam own foe Boston College for a double header on April 24, the Eagles were able to leave Freshman Field with two tallies in the win column. BC jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the opening stanza of game one. A pitchup dual ensued between Crusader pitcher McCarthy and the Eagles’ Kim Ryan. McCarthy went full tilt for the Lady ‘Saders giving up nine hits and sitting down two. BC’s Ryan posted a season high 12 strikeouts. Holy Cross got on the board when fresh