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High school softball

Madison-Grant picks up two big wins to start season

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Apr 8, 2022



Madison-Grant junior Elizabeth Lee delivers a pitch in the first inning of the Argylls' 11-1 win over Eastern in Fairmount on Thursday.

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FAIRMOUNT — If early results are any indication, the Madison-Grant softball team has a potent offensive unit for the 2022 season.

The Argylls pitching and defensive looks pretty good as well.

Through its first two games, M-G has scored 29 runs and allowed just two. A quartet of pitchers has surrendered only six hits and the defensive has made only one error in two wins.

There's still a lot of softball to be played, but the Argylls could develop into big game hunters by the time tournament season rolls around.

"We feel like we've got a lot of kids that can hit and we want them up there swinging the bat at pitches that are strikes," said M-G coach Travis Havens following an 11-1 win over Eastern Thursday night. "If they want to go up there and look for walks, we've got other kids that can go up there and hit the ball. I want them to be aggressive because I feel like when they're aggressive they're going to hit the ball well.

"It's just one game, but we like our kids and we like our team. We think we've got a lot of kids that can play and that's going to create some versatility," he added. "We've probably got more depth than in the seven years I've been out here and it absolutely creates competition in practice. I told our kids after the game if you want to go up there and look at strike three, we'll put somebody else up there to bat. We've got kids on our team that can and will hit."

The Argylls pounded out 17 hits in the win over Eastern with nine different players recording at least one.

Senior Chelsea Parker had three hits with a double, drove in and scored two runs and also stole a base. Senior Chelsea Bowland also collected three hits, stole a base and score three times while senior Anzlee Thomas, junior Katie Duncan and freshmen Demie Havens and Johnna Hiatt had two hits each.

Thomas drove in four runs, three on a first inning home run to dead center. Hiatt had a double and two RBI, Duncan also had a double and senior Gracey Fox drove in the final two runs with a single in her only at bat.

Junior Elizabeth Lee pitched 3 2/3 innings and allowed only three hits, two walks and a first-inning run. She had three strikes and two walks. Duncan twirled the final 1 1/3 innings surrendering just one hit and recording one strikeout.

Parker and Thomas split the innings in the Argylls' 18-1 win at Marion on Thursday.

“Our pitchers did a nice job. We haven’t had a ton of live pitching and hitting because of the weather,” Havens said. “I think the more we play and the more innings those two kids (Lee and Duncan) get under their belt, the more comfortable they’ll get and hopefully that will be how we see it happens most of the time.

“We’ve got four kids that can pitch and they’re all upperclassmen. They’ve been through some of the battles, played two or three full seasons of high school ball so they understand what we’re asking them to do.”

What Havens and his assistant coaches are asking the Argylls to do is simple: try to get better every day.

Madison-Grant (2-0) hosts Wes-Del on Monday, then travels to Pendleton Heights on Tuesday for a stern test to open up play in the Madison County Tourney.

“We feel like we’ve got 15 kids that can play for us,” Havens said. “We try not to look too far ahead. We just want to win our next game, get better every day and do things better than what we did today.

“We want to compete for our conference, Grant Four and every tournament that we play and the big tournament at the end,” he continued. “Those expectations are the same every year and they’re probably the same for a lot of different teams. They don’t change out here.”

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