

# Madison-Grant tops Delta, falls to Alex

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Madison-Grant's Daya Greene prepares for a bunt attempt in the Argylls' 5-3 loss at Alexandria on Saturday. M-G started the opening day with an 11-8 win over Delta.

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Madison-Grant second baseman Sarah Duncan makes a throw to first in the Argylls' game at Alexandria on Saturday.

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ALEXANDRIA — The pop of a ball going into a leather glove and ringing off an aluminum bat filled the air for the first time in nearly two years Saturday afternoon when the Madison-Grant softball team got its season started with a pair of games at Alexandria.

The Argylls split games in the impromptu doubleheader, earning an 11-8 win over Delta in the first before falling, 5-3 to the host Tigers in the second.

“We haven’t played games for 16 months and just to be playing is a big deal,” said M-G’s head coach Travis Havens, who officially entered his second season leading the program, but coached his first game after the entire 2020 spring campaign was canceled by the IHSAA and COVID-19.

“We won a game, had a chance to win both games,” Havens added. “It’s bittersweet I guess, good to be playing but stinks to lose.”

However, the loss to Alex, a Central Indiana Conference rival for M-G, doesn’t count in the league standings. The Argylls and Tigers are scheduled to meet again for their CIC game on May 4 in Alexandria. The two could potentially meet another time in the Madison County tournament in a little more than a week.

Dropping the game to Alex didn’t hurt the Argylls in any manner but pride and it the way in happened.

After Alexandria scored a run in the first inning to take a quick lead, M-G collected four of its six hits in the fourth inning moved in front, 2-1 after an RBI single by Daya Greene and a two-out RBI double from Sydney Lee.

Greene reached on a two-out single in the sixth inning, stole second base and scored Makannah Clouse’s single to extend the Argylls’ lead to 3-1.

However, six of Alexandria's nine hits came consecutively in the sixth inning and the Tigers scored four runs, two on a one-out triple by Tristen Dunn. Madisyn Standridge retired the Argylls in order in the seventh to close out the game.

Sophomore Elizabeth Lee pitched four innings against Delta and all six against Alexandria and accounted herself very well, especially considering it was her first varsity outing. Junior Chelsea Parker also made her first varsity appearance and twirled three innings in the first game.

"We had a plan of using two pitchers both games. We got into a situation we were playing well and (Lee) was throwing well and we felt good about what we were doing," Havens said. "We decided to leave her in and maybe we left her in too long, basically being first and second games of the season.

"We discussed lots of different scenarios. I don't know when we play them again if Lee will pitch or Parker or anybody else," he added. "We don't have a pitcher that pitched today that had ever pitched a varsity inning. The three pitchers we were considering using had never pitched a varsity game."

Greene had two of M-G's seven hits against Alexandria. The sophomore also stole two bases, scored twice and drove in a run in her first varsity experience. Junior Gracey Fox had a double for the Argylls.

Madison-Grant rapped out 14 hits in its win against Delta.

Junior Chelsea Bowland went 4-for-5, scored twice and had an RBI. Seniors Zoey Barnett and Sarah Duncan along with Greene all had two hits apiece. Barnett had two doubles and four RBI, Duncan, Greene and Sydney Lee also had doubles. Sophomore Katie Duncan had a hit and three RBI.

Sydney Lee, Bowland and Clouse all had two stolen bases each against Delta and the Argylls collected nine in the two games.

“I’m pleased, not pleased to lose ever, but we can play,” Havens said. “If we play a little cleaner, I felt good that we manufactured a few runs, that’s just what we’re going to do. We’ve got some kids that can hit it out of the park but more times than not were going to have to get a base runner and move her then a base hit scores her. We did some of that, not enough.

“We brought 15 kids and each one of them could have found their way into the lineup,” he added. “We didn’t play last year so all the stuff we’re learning about each other, learning about our kids, about our coaching, by not having last year we could have figured all this out. Everybody is in the same situation. We’ve got several kids playing for us that haven’t played for 16 months. We’ve got potential. If we clean some things up, we’ll compete.”

Madison-Grant (1-1) visits Eastern on Wednesday then opens its home schedule Thursday against Marion at 5 p.m.