

Class 5A, Region III Bi-district Softball, Game 2

Travis bows out of playoffs

BY DON MUNSCH

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Clear Creek pitcher Katlyn Moulder tossed a perfect-o through five innings against Travis in Game 2 of the Bi-district playoff series Saturday at Lady Tiger Field.

Then in the sixth frame, the Lady Tigers not only broke up the no-hit/perfect game bid but also pushed across two runs, helped in part by some shaky Lady Wildcat defense.

But Moulder was perfect when she needed to be down the stretch, getting a key strikeout and a fly-out in the seventh inning to end the game and series, as Clear Creek defeated Travis 3-2. The Lady Wildcats beat Travis 2-1 in Game 1 Friday night at Clear Creek.

Moulder proved her toughness this year, as she pitched Friday night against Travis, striking out 12 batters in the winning cause. Clear Creek coach Andrea Cash said Moulder has had at least five one-hitters this season. Cash said she didn't know her pitcher had a perfect game going into the sixth inning.

The Lady Wildcats scored one run in the fourth and two in the sixth, with the two runs in the sixth coming on a two-run double by Michaela Adams, whose smash flew over Travis left fielder Kaitlyn Jones head.

But Travis coach Gary Crissman said after the game that once a team breaks up a no-hitter, the momentum can swing the other way. And it did so for Travis.

Jones got a single to lead off the sixth for the Lady Tigers, and then Maryssa Silva grounded a ball through second baseman Ashley Bertot's legs, allowing Silva to reach safely. Cash and Clear Creek infielders protested that Jones interfered when she ran to second base, but the play stood. Rachel Webster then slapped a single to left, driving home the Lady Tigers' first run.

Melissa Billingsley then reached safely when Bertot made another fielding error on a ground ball, allowing Travis' second run to score. Moulder, though, then retired the side, getting two strikeouts and an infield pop-out.

In the seventh inning, Travis' Kim Pepper hit a grounder to Bertot, who again allowed the ball to go through her legs. Leanne Salas then struck out swinging, but Jones hit a double in the gap between center and left. Silva, the next batter, failed to get a bunt down, fouling off a pitch with two strikes. Webster then flied to left to end the game.

"It came to an execution of a bunt, and that's the best I can ask for," Crissman said, explaining that Silva is one of his best bunters.

He said Moulder's potent pitching — rather than any layoff — explained Travis's plate struggles in the series.

"We knew we were going to have our work cut out (for us)," he said. "She was tough for five, but we did a pretty good job against her last night and actually did something against her in the sixth and seventh inning today. Just a little bit too late."

Crissman said he was "very pleased" about his team's play overall, and said Travis returns nine of 11 players next year, so he thinks his team can return to the playoffs.

TOUGH LOSS IN BIDISTRICT



Lady Tigers lose close one to Clear Creek, see Sports



STAFF PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

HOT TOSS: Travis pitcher Alexis Estrada winds up to throw a pitch, as first baseman Becca Rush looks on, in the Lady Tigers' playoff game Saturday.