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Clear Creek hangs on to advance

Lady Wildcats were feeling heat against Travis

By **JASON MCDANIEL** For the Chronicle
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With help from the defense, Katlyn Moulder had thrown five perfect innings, and the offense had supplied three runs. But when the Lady Wildcats started to overheat, they almost blew the game.

Travis used three errors in the final two frames to score twice and put the tying run at third base in the seventh, but Clear Creek hung on for a 3-2 win and 5A bi-district series sweep at Travis.

“They just came back (with) a little of this and a little of that, and my second baseman was struggling a little bit. She was going out in heat stroke just then,” Clear Creek coach Andrea Cash said.

“I know both teams are hot, but I just felt like my kids (were overheating). I don’t know if we just haven’t been in the sun a lot. It was just really hot out there.”

Moulder faced the minimum through five innings, striking out five and allowing only two fly balls to leave the infield. Both were caught. Meanwhile, the offense built a lead that seemed insurmountable.

Laken Vichich singled and pinch runner Cassandra Fournet scored on a clutch hit by No. 9 hitter Megan Tamayo in the fourth. Michaela Adams’ two-run double gave Creek a 3-0 lead in the top of the sixth.

That’s when Travis made the Lady Wildcats sweat.

Kaitlyn Jones’ leadoff single in the bottom half of the inning broke up Moulden’s perfect game. Then Maryssa Silva reached on the first of three Ashley Moore errors. Jones and Silva both scored.

Alexis Estrada kept Creek scoreless in the top of the seventh and Peppers reached on an error to start the bottom half. Jones then doubled to put runners at second and third.

Silva tried twice to execute a squeeze bunt but both went foul, the second for the second out. Rachel

Webster followed with a fly out to left that sent the Lady Wildcats to the second round of the playoffs.

“(Moulden) was perfect through five, and usually – even in baseball – once you break up that no-hitter, it just seemed things started happening our way,” Travis coach Gary Crissman said.

“And it came down to execution of a bunt, and that’s the best I can ask for.”

Moulden recorded 12 strikeouts in a 2-1 win over the Lady Tigers in Game 1 on Friday at Creek. The Lady Wildcats (27-9) will face Baytown Sterling or Pasadena Memorial in the area round next week.

Travis ends its first playoff season 19-11.

“I’m very pleased,” Crissman said. “We still have nine of the 11 coming back next year, and at least I hope we’re going to be back in this same situation next year.”

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