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Kennedy builds on opener loss to state champion Chanhasen

By Jason Olson Apr 17, 2017



Kennedy freshman Courtney Kopischke had seven strikeouts against defending state champion Chanhasen to open the season April 13 at Kelly Fields. (Sun Current photo by Jason Olson)

Kopischke fans seven in complete game

Kennedy softball coach Jim Leicht kept an even perspective on the young season after the Eagles dropped the Metro West Conference and season-opener loss to Class 4A state champion Chanhasen, 12-0 in six innings at Kelly Fields Thursday.

Kennedy freshman pitcher Courtney Kopischke struck out seven and threw 174 pitches while taking the loss against a Storm lineup that boasts a handful of future Division I players.

One of those standouts is pitcher Taylor Manno who struck out 14 batters and will play at Rutgers University.

“Overall we played a good game,” Leicht said. “Unfortunately, they saw Courtney a third time and it is what it is. All we ask of the girls is to give 100 percent effort all the time and they did great.

“They’re too good of a team to see a pitcher that many times and go to her.”

Heading into the season Leicht set the tone for the season by looking for effort all the time.

“It’s about building and we didn’t fold and the kid’s didn’t hang their heads,” he said. “It’s not about matching-up on a one-on-one level but we can match them on effort and we had a number of examples of that. Courtney didn’t back down against of the best line-ups and that’s great to see as a freshman.”

Sophomore right fielder Tiffany Larsen got the start and came up with a couple catches in the opening innings to keep it scoreless.

Senior catcher Sydney Marr did her best to control the base paths, throwing out three base runners at second.

Kennedy heads to Richfield to play in the Spartans Invitational on Saturday and opens play at 11 a.m. against Mahtomedi. The Eagles will play at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. regardless of outcome.

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