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Kopischke fans 16 for two-hit shutout win in Rochester

by Jason Olson jason.olson@ecm-inc.com May 7, 2019

Kennedy enters first full week of May with 5-4 record, 4-3 in tight Metro West Conference

Kennedy split four games as the calendar flipped to May to settle into a 5-4 record, two weeks before section tournaments ramp up.

The Eagles opened the week with a pivotal match up against co-Metro West-leading Benilde-St. Margaret's in a 4-2 loss at Kelly Fields on Monday.

Kennedy pitcher Courtney Kopischke dueled BSM's Annabelle Hilson as both compiled impressive stats with Hilson eventually earning the win. Each pitcher scattered five hits over the seven innings. Kopischke struck out 10 batters, walked two and gave up one home run on four earned runs. Hilson yielded one earned run with six strikeouts and one walk. She also worked ahead in the count with first-pitch strikes to 21-of-29 batters. Kopischke threw 18-of-27 first-pitch strikes.

Kopischke struck out Sarah Houlihan in the first inning but three pitches later BSM's Tibby Stewart drove an base hit back up the middle to score Sophie Melsness to give the visitors the early 1-0 lead.

Kennedy threatened to score in the bottom of the fifth inning as senior Sam Ohm redirected a base hit up the middle but Meredith Hanson grounded into a double-play to end the inning.



Senior Alana Miller passes second base during the April 23 win against Richfield. She drew a pinch walk at Century on Saturday.

(Sun Newspapers staff photo by Jason Olson)

Neither offense could advance past second base until the sixth inning when the Red Knights tact on a run on a hard ground ball into left field off Melsness' bat to plate Mackenzie Rich who led off the inning with a double.

Houlihan doubled the lead with one swing of the bat on a home run over the fence in right field to make it 4-0.

Kopischke struck out the next two batters before inducing a fly out to right field where her sister, Brinna Kopischke, made the final out.

Kennedy had five well-struck balls in the sixth inning but the first two were outs to bring up senior Alana Miller smacked a double to left field. Freshmen Taylor David and Ellie Baker followed up with base hits to produce two runs, cutting the BSM lead in half, 4-2.

After Kennedy sat the Red Knights down in order in the seventh inning, Kennedy's final at-bats were promising. Ohm walked on a seven-pitch at-bat and was bookended with strikeouts before Courtney Kopischke too one for the team, she was hit by a pitch to give the Eagles runners on first and second bases. Bella Fierro went down swinging to end the game with a strikeout.

Chanhassen picked up its first Metro West win of the season and improved to 8-2 overall after a 10-0 win at Kennedy on May 1.



Kennedy pitcher Courtney Kopischke struck out 16 batters in a two-hit complete game shutout at Rochester Century on Saturday.

(Sun Newspapers staff photo by Jason Olson)



Courtney Kopischke recorded two of the four hits off the Storm standout pitcher Syd Schwartz. Kopischke led off the first inning with a line drive to left field and Fierro followed up with a grounder into right field to put two runners aboard with no outs. Schwartz slammed the door on the rally by striking out the next three Eagles to get out of trouble.

Junior Cordy Ruch went 2-for-3 at the plate against Richfield on April 23.

(Sun Newspapers staff photo by Jason Olson)

Kennedy had a base runner on in four of the seven innings but couldn't get on base in the final two innings.

Courtney Kopischke and Brinna Kopischke split pitching duties with Courtney going four innings. She gave up two earned runs on eight hits with seven strikeouts before Brinna worked the final innings. She limited the Storm to one run on four hits on 38 pitches.

Kennedy rebounded with a pair of road wins on Friday and Saturday.

Friday's 6-2 win at Robbinsdale Cooper featured a second-inning grand slam from Courtney Kopischke to take a 5-0 lead after freshman Ava Morabito opened the scoring with a base hit to center to score Brinna Kopischke.

Courtney Kopischke limited the Hawks to two hits through four innings and broke up the shutout bid with two outs in the sixth inning on a ground ball mishandled in the infield.

A road trip to Rochester Century featured more pitching success for Courtney Kopischke in a 2-0 win on Saturday.

The Eagles junior struck out 16 Panthers on 92 pitches to go the distance for the win. She gave up a pair of hits and two walks.

She had one of Kennedy's four hits and also drew a base-on-balls and drove in a run. Gabby Brown, Ohm and Brinna Kopischke accounted for the other hits. Brinna Kopischke scored both of the Eagles runs.

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