Trojans cap off weekend home stand with sweep of Huntington

By Sean Douglas

Behind two remarkably efficient offensive performances on Saturday, Taylor ended its weekend home stand with a series win over Huntington, sweeping the Foresters 10-3 and 7-2 at Gudakunst Field.

As a team, the Trojans were locked in at the plate, hitting .358 (19-of-53) as a group with 17 runs scored, four extra bases hits, and 17 runs batted in. Additionally, the Trojans scored at least one run in each inning save one in their two victories.

Kara Tucker led the offensive outburst, batting 3for-6 with a triple and a team-leading five runs batted in, while Maddi Evans finished 2-for-5 with three runs scored and three RBI. Evans, Aleyah Rastetter, and Ashton Whitman all homered in the two-game set, while Emma West scored five runs and stole three bases.

With her three swipes against the Foresters, West now has 24 stolen bases in 2021. The North Manches-

Indians -



Kara Tucker drove in six runs in the Trojans' twogame sweep of Huntington. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

ter, Indiana native needs just one more to tie Alex Lovelace (25 – 2014) for the most stolen bases for a Trojan in a single season.

Taylor started the scoring

early, as Kristin Mihalic plated West with an RBI single in the first frame for the 1-0 advantage. Huntington got the run back in the top of the second, but the Trojans responded with a pair of runs in their half of the inning. With runners on second and third with two outs, Tucker delivered, punching a two-run single to right field to score Whit-

man and Caitlyn Grim for the 3-1 advantage.

A Taylor Wilson RBI groundout in the third and a Tucker RBI triple in the fourth pushed the Trojans' lead to 5-1. After the Foresters scored two in the top of the fifth, Evans increased Taylor's lead back to four with a two-run shot, her fifth of the season, to right-center field in the bottom half of the frame.

A three-run sixth for the Trojans helped them secure the game one triumph. Tucker's fourth RBI of the contest, a sacrifice fly, scored Jenna LaRoche for the 8-3 advantage, before Rastetter added a little insurance with her sixth home run of the season and third in three games.

Evans (14-3) won her fourth straight start in the circle, striking out three in five innings of work, while Jessica Doctor pitched two scoreless frames in her sixth appearance of the season, recording a pair of strike-outs.

Taylor's offense continued to hum in the nightcap,

scoring five of its seven runs in the first three innings. Evans got it started, singling home Rastetter for the 1-0 advantage in the first inning, before Whitman's third home run of the season and Tucker's fifth RBI of the day made it a 3-0 Taylor lead after two innings of play.

The Trojans took advan-

tage of a pair of Huntington errors in the third inning, putting runners on second and third with nobody out.

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in the state tournament, those are things you just cannot do."

Despite the loss, however, the Indians still showcased a plethora of positives. Their top five batters in the order – Campbell, Brown, Yoder, Bailey, and Swanner – combined for eight RBI, eight hits, and six runs scored, providing a lethal combination of pop, speed, and power.

Additionally, Keaghan Williams, while he took the loss, pitched well against a strong lineup. The junior showcased an effective fastball together with an outstanding curveball that fooled several Norwell batters in the con-

test's early stages.

Together with Swanner,
the two form an effective
1-2 punch that could prove
deadly later in the season.

"Keaghan can be a big part of our pitching program moving forward," Scott said. "His ball moves. He has a little bit of a funky motion that is hard to get the timing down. He can sneak a couple of fastballs by you. There is some promise

there for sure."
Going forward, Scott hopes that his group will learn from their mistakes against the Knights and use that knowledge to grow and improve as a unit, as the season progresses.

"I will accept mistakes early in the season as long as we are learning from those mistakes, apply that knowledge to the next game, and we clean it up and make it better," Scott said. "One loss isn't going to define our season, but we need to be able to recognize our deficiencies and work towards making improvement in those areas. That's how we become a better team later in the season."

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