

# Sports

## Indians fall to Norwell in high-scoring affair

By Sean Douglas

Throughout Tuesday's night contest with Norwell, the Mississinewa Indians showcased their offensive abilities, playing right with one of the more historically stout baseball programs in the state of Indiana.

However, failure to bring home runners in scoring position, combined with several defensive miscues, proved to be the difference in a 17-8 loss to the Knights.

"That is a really good team," Mississinewa Head Coach Mike Scott said. "That's a sectional opponent that we are going to have to be ready to play. If we are going to [make it] through that sectional, we are going to have to beat Norwell. Norwell continues to be strong 1-9, they are solid, and they do not make mistakes."

With the Indians taking a 4-1 lead after the second inning of play, the Knights exploded in the middle frames, scoring five runs in the third, four runs in the fourth, and three runs in the fifth to grab an advantage they would not relinquish.

Mississinewa scored three of its eight runs in the first



Keaghan Williams delivers a pitch in the Indians' loss to Norwell on Tuesday. Photo by Sean Douglas

inning, taking the early 3-0 advantage. Carson Campbell, who finished 3-for-5 with a pair of singles, a double, and three runs scored, led off the inning with a base hit, and Holden Brown reached first after being hit

by a pitch, putting two runners on with nobody out.

Colin Yoder followed with a walk, and Landen Swanner capitalized on the bases-loaded opportunity, plating both Campbell and Brown with a two-run single

to right field. Freshman Kohen Bailey brought home the final run of the inning with a bases-loaded walk.

Campbell scored his second run of the game on sacrifice fly from Brown in the second, giving the Indians a

4-1 advantage.

However, after that, the Knights began to find their groove offensively, and they quickly turned the contest in their favor.

Norwell's first five batters in the third reached base safely, and all five eventually came around to score. Eli Riley and Luke Graft led off the frame with back-to-back singles, and a fielding error by the Indians allowed Riley to cross home plate. Brody Bolyn, who had a monster day at the plate with four hits, a two-run home run, and five RBI, plated a pair of runs with an RBI single, and the Knights tacked on two more before it was all said and done to turn a three-run deficit into a two-run lead.

After a strong start, the Indians' bats fell silent in the third, fourth, and fifth frames, recording just three hits and stranding four runners, including bases-loaded in the fourth.

Norwell added seven more runs in the fourth and fifth, taking a 15-4 lead into the sixth. However, the Indians continued to battle, extending the contest with three runs in the bottom half of the inning. Yoder scored Campbell and Nolan

Quaderer with a two-run double, and Swanner collected his third RBI of the game, a single, to score Brown.

The Indians loaded the bases in the seventh but were only able to push one more run across.

Offensively, the Indians left a plethora of runs on the basepaths, leaving 10 men on base, including the bases loaded in two of the contest's seven innings. Additionally, the Indians' committed four errors, which directly led to several of Norwell's runs.

"We need to make the routine play 100 percent of the time," Scott said. "We need to be situationally aware at the plate, and on the mound, we need to throw strikes. We need to limit walks. Right now, what's happening is that we are compounding our problems and our mistakes, and we are not closing the door and shutting off the bleeding. This season, that is what has hurt us a little bit. We need to rebound from those mistakes."

"That's the telltale sign of this game. If you are going to beat a program like that, and if you want to advance

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## Taylor sweeps Indiana Tech in non-league tilt

By Sean Douglas

In its final non-League series of the season, Taylor recorded a pair of victories, shutting out Indiana Tech 5-0 in the opener before coming away with a 5-3 triumph in the nightcap. With the wins, the Trojans improved to 14-4 against non-Crossroads League opponents in the 2021 campaign.

In game one, Taylor's new single-season strikeout leader Maddi Evans (12-3) was once again on her game, putting together another tremendous performance in the circle. The Fairmount, Indiana native finished with eight strikeouts in her 12th win, allowing only one Warrior to reach third base.

Taylor Wilson led the offense in the opener, finishing 2-for-3 with a pair of RBI singles, while Evans also drove in a pair of runs. Kristin Mihalic went 2-for-2 with a pair of doubles and two walks,

while Lauren Kanai added a double.

After a scoreless first frame, the Trojans took a lead they would not relinquish in the top of the second. After Kristin Mihalic reached on a one-out walk, Wilson continued her recent offensive tear, plating pinch runner Nicole Brindle with a single to right field to give the Trojans an early 1-0 advantage. Evans gave herself a little cushion later in the frame, scoring Wilson on an RBI fielder's choice.

Emma West led off the fifth inning with a bunt single and scored later in the frame, before the Trojans added a pair of insurance runs in the top of the seventh. Back-to-back doubles from Kanai and Mihalic increased Taylor's lead to 4-0, before Wilson capped off the scoring with her second RBI single to right field.

The Trojans got on the board early in the nightcap as Kanai scored West with

a base hit for the 1-0 lead, but the Warriors responded with their first two runs of the evening to take a 2-1 advantage into the second frame.

However, Taylor answered with a pair of runs in the top of the third, regaining the lead for good in the process. Ashton Whitman scored Evans, who reached on an error, with an RBI single, and West followed with a run-scoring single of her own to increase Taylor's advantage to 3-2.

West and Kara Tucker added two more runs in the fifth, both hitting singles to lead off the frame before scoring on a bases loaded hit-by-pitch and a bases loaded walk, respectively.

Kanai (10-6) collected her 10th victory of the season, striking out four in five efficient innings of work. Additionally, Cassy Lewis recorded her seventh save, closing the contest with two scoreless innings.

## Lethal offense lifts Eastbrook to mercy rule triumph over Southern Wells

By Sean Douglas

Heading into Wednesday night's contest against Southern Wells, Eastbrook Head Coach Harold Coates wondered how his team would respond after a double-digit loss to Jay County the evening before.

Safe to say, the Panthers bounced back in a big way, scoring early and often in 12-1, mercy rule victory over the Raiders.

Eastbrook came away with eight hits in the contest, while also capitalizing on eight Southern Wells errors. From the first at-bat, the Panthers showed confidence at the plate, and it led to a plethora of success.

"Kayleigh Gross comes up in the very first at-bat and doesn't get on base but hits it hard. I think that just started it [for us,]" Eastbrook Head Coach Harold Coates said. "We've been talking about putting the ball in play and making them field it [because] they are either going to or [we are] going to get on base."

Southern Wells scored its first and only run of the contest in the opening frame, taking advantage of a pair of Eastbrook errors, but the Panthers came roaring back, scoring four runs in the bottom half of the frame to take a lead they would not relinquish.

Logan Jones started the rally by reaching on a Southern Wells error, before Chloe Poe ripped a shot to left-center field, her fourth home run of the season, to put the Panthers.

Poe not only leads the Panthers in home runs, but she also leads all Grant County softball teams in that category.

"Chloe has done a fantastic job hitting the ball," Coates said. "She hits it hard, and she gets a lot of innings started. She works hard, and she always has. She's an athletic kid, and she doesn't get cheated when she swings."

After Ava Walters scored on a wild pitch and Addison Coates came home on another Raider error to cap

off the first inning, the Panthers scored three more runs in the second frame to increase their advantage to 7-1. Gross reached third on an error and later scored on a wild pitch, before Walters and Coates hit back-to-back RBI singles.

Gross hit a two-run single in the third to increase Eastbrook's lead to 9-1, before a two-run triple from Abigail Cansler in the fourth put the final nail in the coffin.

After the first inning, Eastbrook's defense was sensational. The Panthers did not allow another batter to reach base safely, and several players made incredible defensive plays, including Cansler, who made an over-the-shoulder grab in right field to take away an extra-base hit in the fourth.

"We talk about being ready on every pitch. We made a couple of errors there early on, but once again, they rebounded and came back and finished

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