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Sports

Madison-Grant drops heartbreaker to Frankton

By Sean Douglas

Tuesday night’s Class 2A Regional Championship contest between CIC rivals Madison-Grant and Frankton, particularly in the final three innings, was a battle between two remarkably talented softball squads.

In the end, however, a few crucial gaffes by the Argylls late in the game proved costly, as Frankton overcame a three-run deficit to eventually defeat Madison-Grant 6-5 in eight innings at Jay Dunlap Field.

“It was a good game,” Madison-Grant Head Coach Travis Havens said. “It wasn’t over until the very last out. Our kids fought hard, their kids fought hard. I’m not surprised by that. We just had a few too many mistakes.”

After five innings of clean softball in which the Argylls made stellar defensive play after stellar defensive play, the remainder of the contest was a reversal.

In the sixth, seventh, and eighth frames, the Argylls committed three errors, which played a critical role in all six of Frankton’s tallies.

“We told our kids it was going to be an awesome atmosphere, which it was,” Havens said. “I think we got a little emotional. You always encourage your kids to play with emotion, but not get emotional. I think we lost our heads a little bit and did some uncharacteristic things, and that’s why, maybe, we ended up losing.”

Sophomore Elizabeth Lee set the tone in the opening five frames for the Argylls, allowing just one hit and two walks while striking out four, but the Argylls’ offense did not find its groove until the fourth inning.

After leaving six runners on base to start, including the bases loaded in the first and runners on second and third with one out in the third, the Argylls used a little two-out magic to snag the early advantage. Hannah Ogden started the rally with a single to right field, before leadoff hitter Chelsea Bowland was hit by a pitch, putting runners on first and second.

On the fourth pitch of her third at-bat, sophomore Daya Greene delivered, punching a two-run double to left field to give the Argylls a 2-0 lead. Sarah Duncan followed with a run-scoring base hit of her own, increasing Madison-Grant’s lead to 3-0.

Two frames later, however, the tide shifted.

Walks to Frankton’s Jersey Marsh and Claire Duncan, combined with pitcher Addyson Coppess reaching first on an error, loaded the bases for Eagles’ power hitter Makenna Alexander. The Frankton slugger made the Argylls pay, giving the Eagles the 4-3 lead with a no-doubt grand slam to right field.

“We played good enough to have a three-run lead in the sixth inning, [but we had] a couple of mistakes and a couple of walks, and then obviously a kid that we know can hit the ball



Photo: M-G Assistant Coach Jeremy Havens comforts Zoey Barnett (20) as the rest of the team looks on. The Argylls fell to Frankton, 6-5, in regional championship. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

out of the park got up to bat and [delivered,]” Havens said.

The Argylls continued to battle, tying the game in the bottom of the seventh on a clutch, two-out double by Zoey Barnett, but the Eagles scored two runs in the top of the eighth to regain their advantage, this time for good.

Madison-Grant got one run back in the bottom of the eighth on an RBI single from Bowland, but two more runners were left on base as Frankton closed out the contest and punched its

ticket to Frontier semi-state.

“We had a chance to win it,” Havens said. “We were one hit away from winning it. We just couldn’t get it done.”

In a losing effort, Greene put together another outstanding outing to close out her sophomore season, finishing 2-for-5 from the plate with two runs scored and a pair of runs batted in.

“She played well. She’s played well all year,” Havens said of Greene. “She’s an all-conference

kid, and she did what she does. She finds a way to get on base, she finds a way to score, and she definitely affected the game in a positive way. That’s all you can ask of her to do.”

Barnett, Duncan, Chelsea Parker, and Gracey Fox each finished with two hits in the contest, while Bowland, Sydney Lee, and Chelsea Parker each finished with one.

Tuesday’s contest marked the final game for Barnett, Lee, Ogden, and Duncan, all of whom have left a lasting impression.

The group will be deeply missed, but they were instrumental in restoring a championship mentality to Madison-Grant softball.

“We thanked them, and we let them know that they all made Madison-Grant softball better,” Havens said. “We are going to have a hard time filling their spots and filling their roles. [I] told them if there is anything I can do for them down the road, I will be more than happy to help them out. They did a nice job for us, and they are good kids.”

What’s the score?

June 1-7
Boys Baseball
6/5—Madison-Grant **1-12**
(6) Wapahani (Class 2A Regional Semifinal – Lafayette Central Catholic)

Boys Golf
6/1—Marion @ Huntington North
Marion – 221
Kyle Coryea – 51

Josiah Gallaway – 56
6/4—Eastbrook @ Sectional – 3rd of 12 (374)
Andrew Jarck – 85
6/4—Madison-Grant @ Sectional – 11th of 12 (463)
Soren Price – 109
6/4—Marion @ Sectional – 12th of 12 (472)
Sean Flynn – 115
6/4—Mississinewa @ Sectional – 6th of 12 (392)

Justin Dakin – 84 (Advanced to Regional)
Ty Corey – 87 (Advanced to Regional)
6/4—Oak Hill @ Sectional – 5th of 12 (378)
Ian Brookshire – 87

Boys Track and Field
6/4—Eastbrook @ State Finals
110 Meter Hurdles – Hay-

den Raikes – 16th place (15.30)
6/4—Marion @ State Finals
200 Meter – Zaimar Burnett – 2nd place (21.91)
Long Jump – Zaimar Burnett – 3rd place (23’0”),
Cubie Jones – 22nd place (20’6”)
6/4—Mississinewa @ State Finals
100 Meter – Hayden Nel-

son – 10th place (11.17)
4 x 100 Relay – Hayden Nelson, Trevon Hess, Peyton McPeak, Jayden Crick – 23rd place (43.85)
6/4—Oak Hill @ State Finals
400 Meter – Mason McKinney – 15th place (50.00)

Girls Softball
6/1—Frankton 6-5 (8)

Madison-Grant (Class 2A Regional Championship)
Girls Track and Field
6/5—Eastbrook @ State Finals
High Jump – Rachel Manning – 24th place (5-0)
6/5—Madison-Grant @ State Finals
200 Meter – Emma Ewer – 17th place (26.53)