

Joe Stuart

Game Recap

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Working Headline

The Linfield Wildcats' softball team extended their win streak to four on Sunday evening, winning both games of their double-header with the Pacific University Boxers 7-2 and 7-1.

The scoring started early for the Wildcats in game 1, when senior Cheyenne Fletcher took the first pitch she saw from Pacific freshman hurler Tiare Guerrero over the left-field fence to put Linfield up 1-0. It was Fletcher's eighth homer of the season, which leads all Wildcats and is tied for third in the Northwest Conference.

The scoring continued moments later when junior Darian Stedman doubled to center-field to score senior Emily Allen from second, and the Wildcats went up 2-0 early on.

Fletcher continued her hot start in the second inning when she singled with the bases loaded to score junior Maddy Colson. The bases stayed loaded but the 'Cats were not available to take advantage after senior Melanie Oord hit into a fielder's choice that resulted in an out at home plate and Allen flied out to left, stranding three runners on base.

The Wildcats were able to tack on one more though in the third when sophomore Chelsea Horita hit a bloop single to right field that allowed senior Jessica Woodruff to score from second base.

The Linfield bats would go quiet in the fourth inning but senior Jacinda Swiger drove in one more run that scored Woodruff from second on an error committed by Pacific third-baseman Haley Kodama to put Linfield up 5-0.

Senior pitcher Shelby Saylor's shutout was broken up in the sixth inning when Kodama led off the inning with a home run, followed by an RBI double for Montana Vaught that scored Trisha Snyder all the way from first, who had reached on an error. Linfield second baseman Paige Smotherman.

With a 5-2 lead heading into the bottom of the sixth, the Wildcats were able to add two more insurance runs, starting with a towering leadoff home run by Oord to right field, her fourth of the year.

The 'Cats added one more when Woodruff doubled to score sophomore Alana Nuttman, pinch running for sophomore Makenna Clizer. The inning came to a close though following the play when Woodruff was caught standing off second base and was tagged by Pacific shortstop Jill Uyeda.

Saylor was able to get the Boxers to go down in a one-two-three bottom of the seventh inning to end the game.

Saylor improved to 12-5 on the season. The win was her 13th complete game of the season. Saylor allowed two runs, one earned, on six hits and one walk while recording two strikeouts. Guerrero took the loss for the Boxers, allowing three runs, all earned, on five hits and two walks through two innings of work. Guerrero is now 0-3 on the season.

The Wildcats would win game 2 as well 7-1, and improve to 27-7 overall on the year and 19-3 in Northwest Conference play, solidifying their hold on second place in the conference standings. The Boxers fell to 17-3 overall and 11-1 in conference, but continue to sit in the fourth and final playoff spot in the conference standings.

The Wildcats and the Boxers continue their series Monday April 9th, playing a second double-header starting at 5:00