

Ohio Girls Gain 8-6 Triumph In OVAC All-Star Softball Tilt

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Slick fielding, solid pitching and heavy hitting are an unbeatable combination on any level of girls' softball or boys' baseball.

And the Ohio All-Stars used a combination of all three Sunday afternoon for an 8-6 victory over West Virginia in the first annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference-sponsored girls' all-star softball game played on the Bridgeport Schools Athletic Field diamond in Brookside.

An encouraging crowd turned out for the girls' softball and boys' baseball doubleheader despite threatening skies throughout the day.

Saturday's rainfall also left the field extremely muddy and it took an all-out effort by OVAC baseball chairman George Kovalick and Bridgeport coaches Steve Wojcik and Fred Otteson to get the infield in good enough condition to allow the games to be played.

Once the action got underway, the fans seemed to get their money's worth.

In the opener, the Ohio girls jumped ahead 3-0, saw the margin dwindle to 4-3 after six but then scored three more times in the seventh to pull safely away.

The winners played errorless ball in the field and got some sparkling

defensive play from outfielders Tammy Adamson of St. Clairsville and Sandy Reed of Barnesville, along with third baseman Rene Bednarski of Buckeye West.

Lori Hockenberry, Buckeye North pitching star, hurled the entire game to pick up the victory. She was one out away from an 8-3 triumph when John Marshall's Dana Downs doubled to right field, knocking in three runs in the last of the ninth to close the gap.

Downs was the biggest thorn in Hockenberry's side during the game as she drove in four runs overall.

Ohio's three-run first inning began when Adamson walked. Reed singled and, with two out, catcher Dee Thieman of Fort Frye singled to left for an RBI. Two more runs scored later in the frame as the result of an error.

West Virginia bounced back with two in the third as Pam Fraga of Weir walked and Oak Glen's Lori Manypenny singled to get things started. Downs picked up one RBI with a single and Wheeling Park's Mary Kimble doubled home the second tally.

In the fifth, the Buckeyes moved to a 4-2 lead. West Virginia nearly got out of the inning after turning a doubleplay but singles by Reed and Thieman and an error produced the tally.

The margin was cut to 4-3 in the

sixth as Downs reached on a fielder's choice, stole second and scored on Kimble's single, her second RBI.

But in the seventh, Ohio coaches Sharon Pabian of St. Clairsville, Bob Kuczykowski of Jefferson Union and Bob Guy of Buckeye North had reason to smile as their side scored three times to put the game all but out of reach.

Lisa Pramik, St. Clairsville, singled and Bednarski reached via an infield hit. A botched ground ball allowed one run to score and permitted Bellaire's Cathy Goodson to reach first base. Hockenberry picked up an RBI with a ground-out and Charla Stephens of Barnesville brought home another run with a sacrifice fly.

In the eighth, Ohio scored again on Tammy Clevenger's single, an error and a passed ball.

West Virginia's last-ditch rally began with one out when Aimee Olejasz, Wheeling Central, singled and Carol Hrabovsky, Weir, followed with a hit. With two down, Manypenny walked to load the bases and Downs then cleared the sacks with her double to right center. But Hockenberry then retired Robin Blair, John Marshall, on a hard grounder to Bednarski, ending the game.

Line score follows:

Ohio	300	010	310	—	8	11	0
West Virginia	020	001	003	—	4	10	10

Batteries: Hockenberry and Thieman, Tittle (8); Saliga and Burke, Dofka (4).

