

RECORD SPORTS

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Tigers' second baseman Erica Wiggers gets set to slam her RBI single that would make the score 7-3. The Tigers would go on to win the game by a score of 8-7.



Starting pitcher Danielle Haberman winds up during last Friday's 8-7 victory against Longwood High School. Record photos/Jason Kirell

NORTHPORT SOFTBALL

Tigers Rally To Knock Off Longwood

By Jason Kirell

While they may not be the best team in high school softball, the Northport Tigers (8-10) make a strong case as the team that has the most fun.

Jumping up and down on the bench, singing songs of encouragement, the Tigers are one of those rare combinations of wacky, zany characters who enjoy sports. So, knowing that, it was all fun when they met Longwood High School last Friday as they try to finish the season at .500.

Coming off a 3-16 year, the Tigers have made tremendous strides in 2000 and continued their surprising season with a nail-biting come-from-behind 8-7 victory over Longwood.

The Tigers were put in an early hole when starting pitcher Danielle Haberman allowed three hits and a walk to plate three early runs for Longwood. She soon settled down and retired the next three.

The Tigers got more than a little of the damage back early in the first inning following two lead-off walks. With runners on first and second, Erica Wiggers hit a shot to second that retired the runner going to third on a force play. First baseman Amanda Quinn was the next batter and she smoked a double off the Longwood pitcher, plating the first run of the game. Following a steal of home plate by Emily Mancini, rightfielder Lauren Autz doubled in Amanda DiPietro, who earlier singled. Catcher Claire Linder followed that up with a double of her own, bringing in starting pitcher Haberman (who walked) and Autz to make the score 5-3, Tigers.

Northport added three more runs in the bottom of the second, following a 1, 2, 3 inning by Haberman.

Shortstop and team sparkplug Alexis Amodeo led off with a walk and centerfielder Krista Merran followed with a single. A wild pitch advanced the runners to second and third before another wild pitch brought home Amodeo to make it 6-3.

Wiggers followed up with a single to plate Merran and after Quinn grounded out into a force play first baseman DiPietro launched a long bomb into cen-

ter field that ended up landing DiPietro all the way on third, scoring Quinn and making it 8-3.

Longwood battled back in the game, plating runners in the top of the fourth and fifth innings to make it an 8-7 game.

In the bottom of the sixth the Tigers had a golden opportunity to put the game away, but came up a little short.

Leftfielder Margaret Parker singled to lead off the inning and stayed on first after Amodeo flyed out. She then

advanced to second on a wild pitch and stayed there while Merran was hit by a pitch. Wiggers then singled to load the bases and with the potential for a big inning on the shoulders for Quinn, the Tigers' first baseman singled in the infield, forcing a play at home and effectively ending the inning.

But Quinn would be redeemed when Haberman would work a 1, 2, 3 seventh inning and got great help from third baseman Mancini, who made a phenomenal diving catch in foul territory for the last out of the game.



He's Safe!

Even though a Whitman player couldn't reach the runner at first, in what could be considered a major upset, 9-9-0 Wait Whitman High School managed to catch up to and then pass the 12-8-0 Northport squad in baseball action last week. Whitman knocked off the second-place Tigers 11-6 on Friday.

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Jason Kirell