

Sports

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Page 17

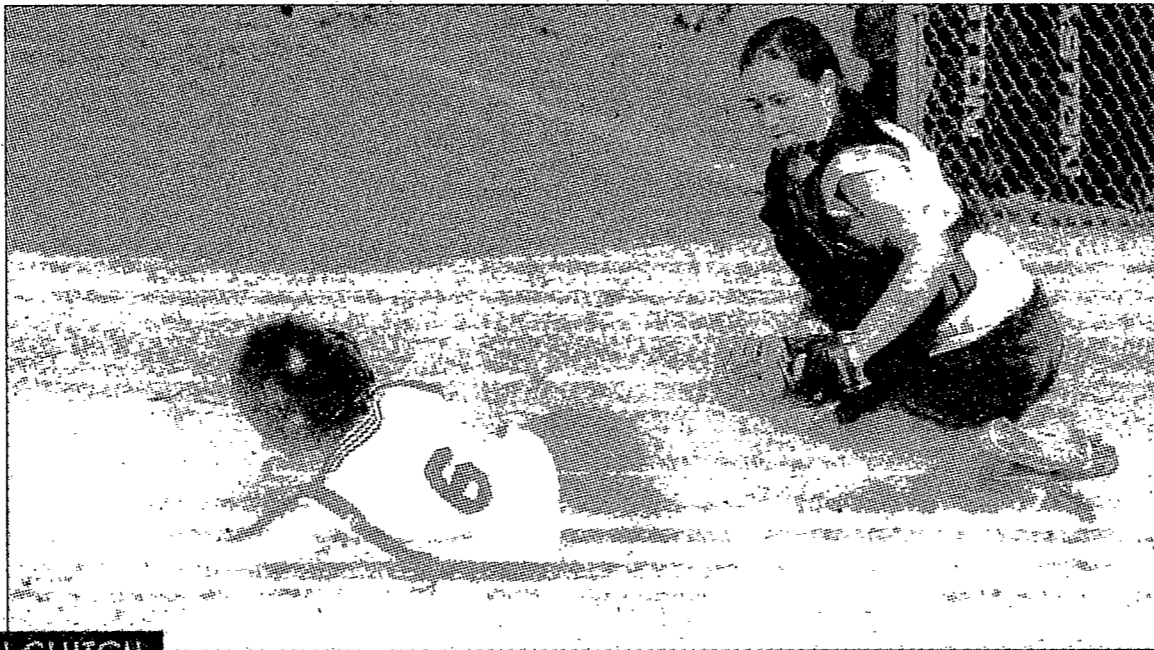
By JASON KARPFF

It was a routine single to left field. There was nothing out of the ordinary about it except for the fact that it came during a non-ordinary five-run, bottom of the seventh inning that propelled Northport over Longwood during a Class AA softball game on Thursday, April 24 at Northport High School. Bouncing off the bat of Lady Tigers junior Kerri Medina, the one-out liner to left drove home senior Juliana Ubelis from second to complete the 8-7 comeback victory.

"I was just telling the girls it was a great game until that seventh inning."

-Lady Tigers coach DONALD STRASSER

Reacting to Longwood's tie-breaking four-run top of the 7th, which was followed by a decisive five-run bottom 7th for Northport



TIGERS COME THROUGH IN CLUTCH

		R	H	E
Longwood	010	110	4	7 11 2
NORTHPORT	100	110	5	8 9 3

"I was really nervous," Medina admitted after the game. "It was a great game. We were excited the whole game, and the bench is what pulled us through."

While Medina completed the inning, it began with the bat of freshman Victoria Polla, who blooped her way on base with a single to shallow right field. Northport eighth-grader Molley Jarrett reached base on a fielder's choice error, and juniors Tara Fogarty and Tara Donnino kept the line moving with a pair of singles to load the bases and drive in the first run of the final frame, respectively.

"The important thing about coming from behind is keeping the line moving," Northport head coach Don Strasser said. "We took some key walks, and it's a nice win for us."

Those key walks came by way of junior Rebecca Novick and freshman Nicole Pirretti, who each saw six pitches before reaching first, keeping the bases loaded and bringing in two more runs. Junior Tracy Cagnard connected on a high fly ball to left field that was caught just deep enough for Fogarty to tag from third and tie the score at 7. The sac-fly brought Medina to the plate.

While the bottom of the seventh was peachy for the Lady Tigers (2-9 League II, 2-11 overall), the top-half was the pits. The big bats of Longwood (1-10 League I, 3-10 overall) cranked a pair

(Continued on page 19)

TAKING CARE OF THE BALL: The Northport defense kept it close until the seventh-inning, when the Lady Tigers offense exploded for five runs to defeat Longwood, 8-7 on Thursday, April 24. Freshman Victoria Polla (#14, top right) snags a fly ball while eighth-grader Molley Jarrett makes the tag at third base (#6) and junior Tara Fogarty (top) waits for the runner at home plate. - Richard Valeo photos

It's not over till it's over



After allowing four runs to fall behind in top half of 7th, Tigers answer with five-run rally capped by Medina