

Churchill gets sunshine, sweeps twinbill from Patriots

The first time the Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin girls softball teams were scheduled to meet on April 23 it was rained out.

On Monday, the sun shined on the host Chargers and it poured again on Franklin's parade as Churchill captured both ends of a double-header, 9-2 and 7-3.

Churchill is now 10-2 and 2-5 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Franklin falls to 7-12 and 0-7. Adrienne Doyle pitched seven strong innings for Churchill in the opener, scattering six hits. She struck out nine and did not walk a Patriot.

Christine Fones had two hits and five RBI for Churchill, including a two-run single in the fourth inning followed by a two-run triple in the fifth. Kelly Stahley also contributed two hits.

Tie should put Chiefs in title matchup

BY C.J. RIAK
SPORTS WRITER
cjr@ak.com

No one wins with a tie? Not so. Plymouth Canton struck for a goal with 27:47 remaining in its match Monday at Livonia Churchill, with Abi Morrell heading a looping pass from Allison Mills over Churchill keeper Kerrie LaPorte and sending it rolling toward the net where her sister, Anne, finished it.

The goal knotted the score at 2-2, which is where it stayed for the remainder of the match. And that result was a winner for the Chiefs, keeping them unbeaten in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division at 5-0-1; they are 11-2-1 overall.

All that separates them from a berth in the WLAA championship match opposite Plymouth Salem (one week from today) is a win — or tie — against last-place Walled Lake Western Monday.

For Churchill, the tie was as bad as a loss, as far as the standings are concerned. A win would have made it a three-way tie for first in the division with Canton, Churchill and Northville; the Chargers would have stayed in

SOFTBALL

Kelly Young led Franklin with a pair of hits.

In the second game, pitcher Meghan Misiek struck out 10, walked three and allowed five hits to pace the Chargers.

Franklin couldn't hold a 3-1 lead as Churchill took advantage of walks and errors with a six-run rally in the bottom of the sixth.

Tara Muchow, Franklin's starting pitcher, suffered both losses. She gave up seven hits, 19 walks and had 19 strikeouts during the two games.

On Saturday, Churchill swept visiting Redford Union, 1-0 and 3-0.

Fones' game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the 10th under the international tiebreaker format sealed the victory for the Chargers in the

opener.

Doyle pitched all 10 innings, scattering eight hits and one walk while fanning six.

Misiek, meanwhile, tossed a two-hitter in the nightcap. She struck out 13 and didn't allow a walk.

Carly George led Churchill with two hits, while Sallie Kuratko had an RBI triple followed by Kristin Derwich's RBI single.

REGINA 7-6, LADYWOOD 2-5: Catholic League Central Division leader Harper Woods Regine (24-2, 7-1) completed the sweep Tuesday with a 13-inning victory in the nightcap against host Livonia Ladywood (10-15, 2-7).

Melanie Grove had three hits and Kristen Barnes added two hits for the Blazers. Sarah Thiermeyer contributed an RBI triple, while Becky Mitchell chipped in with an RBI single.

Losing pitcher Shelby Morosa worked 10 of the 13 innings.

"The kids played real hard and they

easily could have won it as they lost it," Ladywood coach Bob Lufey said. Rebecca Pawlik, who gave up 12 hits and three walks over seven innings, suffered the defeat in the opener.

Ladywood had just three hits, an RBI double by Grove, an RBI single by Day and a triple by Thiermeyer.

JOHN GLENN 17, WAYNE 4: Amanda Ross, Samantha Crews and Abby Massey had two hits apiece last Thursday, lifting Westland John Glenn to the non-league victory over rival Wayne Memorial in a five-inning mercy-rule shortened game.

Ross had a triple, double and three RBI, while Crews contributed a two-run homer. Massey tripled and knocked in two runs.

Amy Peling and Kara Kirk each had a pair of hits for the Zebras.

Stephanie Fedulchak was the winning pitcher, giving up six hits and eight walks.

Wayne starter Jenny Drys, who worked four innings, suffered the defeat. She gave up 11 hits and six walks.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 13-10, CLARENCEVILLE 3-0: Lutheran High Westland improved to 10-5 overall and 5-1 in the Metro Conference by taking a pair of games Monday from visiting Livonia Clarenceville (1-6, 1-5).

The Lady Warriors won the opener as Karl Charles went 3-for-3 with two RBI. Sharon Greer added a homer, triple and four RBI.

Katie Heiden, the winning pitcher, gave up just four hits and one walk over five innings.

Clarenceville starter Taryn Charette suffered the loss.

In the nightcap, Heather Rose blanked the Trojan on two hits over five innings. She walked three and struck out two.

Sarah Marody had two hits and three RBI.

Lutheran Westland also turned a pair of double plays.

"This, collectively, is the best infield I've had in 16 years of coaching," Lutheran Westland coach Ron Gentz said.

On Saturday, Lutheran Westland took a pair of games in the Rochester Lutheran Northwest Round-Robin Tournament, defeating the host Crusaders, 19-18, in the first game was Greer, Marody and Emily Reineke each collected three hits. Greer and Reineke combined for nine RBI.

The Warriors, who led 13-0 at one point, got a complete game from hurler Katie Heiden. She walked 11, scattered 12 hits and struck out nine in picking up the win.

The Warriors also defeated Hamtramck, 21-6, as Heiden, Rose and Liz Unger collected two hits apiece.

SOCCER

the bunt. The tie left them with a 7-3-2 overall record, 2-1-1 in the division.

"It's a good tie," said Canton coach Don Smith. "This is a character-builder for us, the way we came back in the second half."

It was a match filled with frustration, for both teams. The Chiefs dominated play in the first half, keeping the ball bottled up in Churchill's defensive end of the field most of time. And yet, the Chargers made the most of their few forays into Canton territory.

In the opening minutes of the game, Churchill quickly put the Chiefs in a hole, with Kersten Conklin slicing through to score a goal and make it 1-0. It took Canton more than 20 minutes to even it, with Anne Morrell popping it up to the middle of the box, where Amanda Lentz was poised to head it in with 16:56 left in the half.

But Churchill quickly answered, and it was Conklin who did the answering. Again the senior forward utilized her

superior speed, penetrating the Chiefs' defense and scoring to make it 2-1 with 13:02 remaining in the half.

"When you've got speedsters like Morrell and Conklin, it's going to be up and down," said Churchill coach Chad Campau. "I thought we did a good job getting the ball to Kersten's feet, where she could handle it, in the first half."

Although the second half seemed a bit more even, Canton got the only goal, and it was Mills who was responsible for initiating the play. She got a takeaway in the corner in Churchill's end before centering the ball to Abi Morrell.

"We had a couple of chances in the second half," said Campau. "On the other hand, Canton had numerous chances. But we played well."

The best scoring opportunity for Churchill came just over eight minutes into the second half, with Conklin again at the center of the action. She split a pair of defenders in pursuit of a ball crossed into the box and managed to chip it past Canton keeper Amy Dorigi. Conklin was alone in front of an empty net, but her shot sailed high and hit

the football goalpost over the net.

"We talked at halftime about trying to take advantage of their defense," said Campau. "We thought that might be their biggest weakness."

Canton's defense was tougher over the last half, though. So was Churchill's.

"They played a lot better defense than I thought," admitted Smith. "Although we did get a lot of opportunities down there."

Converting those chances is the key now. Because as Campau noted, "There are more important games still to be played."

Salem 9, Franklin 0: Jami Coyte poured in three goals and Plymouth Salem overcame a slow start to bury hapless Livonia Franklin Monday at Salem.

The game was scoreless for the first 20 minutes — then the dam burst. The Rocks scored four times before the half, Jenny Fisher getting the first.

Other goal-scorers included Suti Towne, Jennine Edwards, Danielle Filips and Jill Dombrowski. Dombrowski played the first half in goal.

Salem improved to 9-4-1. Franklin remains winless at 0-9-2.

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