

## Lady Saints stroll to good start

■ Patrician beats Monroe, Jackson and Marengo, but falls to host Clarke Prep in Grove Hill tourney to start season with 3-1 record

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

GROVE HILL — *Three out of four ain't bad.*

That's how the Patrician Lady Saints (3-1) started their softball season over the weekend in the Grove Hill tournament by beating Monroe, Jackson and Marengo, before being upset by the host Lady Gators.

In the 21-0 beatdown of Monroeville, Shayna Jimerson picked up the win thanks to a barrage of hits from Saints batters. Heading the charge was senior leadoff hitter Kylie Lewis with a 3-for-4 performance highlighted by a 2-run triple in the Saints' 7-run fourth inning. Kalyn Hall got in on the action with a 2-for-4 outing that included a home run and three RBI. Harley Glass added two hits for the Saints, while Tori Walters, Shayna Jimerson and Amber Dobbins each added one.

Things would get tougher for the Lady Saints, however, after the Monroe blowout.

Next the Saints got past Marengo 4-1 thanks to another stellar outing from Shayna Jimerson. The junior went the complete game on the mound, allowing just one hit and two walks with six strikeouts.

Amber Dobbins led the way at the plate for Patrician with two doubles and three RBI, while Kylie Lewis and Allie

Roach each added singles.

In the next game, Patrician would need nine innings to get past a pesky Jackson Academy side. Patrician actually jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the second inning thanks to RBI hits from Anna Lewis and Kylie Lewis. Kayln Hall would plate another run in the fourth to put Patrician up 4-0.

However, Jackson would rally for four runs in their half of the fourth to tie the game. Patrician would win it in the ninth when an RBI single off the bat of Allie Roach plated Anna Lewis with the winning run. Starting pitcher Kylie Lewis and reliever Shayna Jimerson combined for 13 strikeouts with just three walks in the win.

In the final game of the Grove Hill tournament, Patrician fell 6-3 to host Clarke Prep. Kalyn Hall got the start for the Saints and immediately got into trouble with three walks in the first inning. The Gators took advantage of the free passes, scoring three runs.

The Saints posted two runs of their own in the first thanks to an RBI single from Amber Dobbins, but it was not enough as their bats fell asleep, scoring just one more run in the 6-3 loss.

Patrician (3-1) will next play in their own invitational tournament this Friday and Saturday (3/2-3) in Butler. Some of the teams participating will be Clarke Prep, Faith, Tuscaloosa, South Choctaw, Cottage Hill and Kingwood.



Choctaw Sun photo by Marcus Gates

Pitcher Shayna Jimerson (#7), catcher Anna Lewis, third baseman Amber Dobbins and second baseman Allie Roach (#24) all stroll off the field after one of their three wins in the Grove Hill Invitational over the weekend. The Lady Saints next will play in the Patrician Invitational in Butler on March 2-3.

## Choctaw girls shine at AISA All-Stars

MONTGOMERY -- The 37th Annual AISA All-Star Basketball game was played at Huntingdon College on Friday, February 23rd and featured four representatives from Choctaw County on the West team, which defeated the East girls 91-87.

In the game, state champ South Choctaw was represented by Kate Dahlberg and Arielle Campbell, while Patrician's Kylie Lewis and Anna Lewis were selected from the Saints. The West was coached by South Choctaw's Charlie Taylor and Marion's Carly Nichols.

Patrician's Kylie Lewis led the Choctaw County contingent with 11 points, while teammate Anna Lewis and South Choctaw's Campbell each scored six. 'Sun' Player of the Year Kate Dahlberg finished with two points. Warrior's Keshara Moore's 23 points was the high total in the game which was enough to earn her MVP honors.

The West boys also defeated the East boys 106-72. The West MVP was Tray Bonner, Cottage Hill Christian, and the East MVP was Cody Owens, Kingwood Christian School.



Kylie Lewis



Choctaw Sun photos by Marcus Gates

South Choctaw's Charlie Taylor was the head coach of the West All-Stars who topped the East 91-87 in Montgomery on Friday. Taylor was joined on the team by two of his Rebel players, Kate Dahlberg (#20) and Arielle Campbell (#15), as well as two players from Patrician, Anna Lewis (#40) and Kiley Lewis (#22). Kylie Lewis was the top scorer of the four with 11 points. Anna and Arielle each had six.

## Saints jack Jackson; fall to Clarke Prep Gators

■ Patrician leaves bases loaded twice and commits six errors while holding Clarke Prep to only five hits in disheartening 9-7 loss

By Colin Merritt  
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GROVE HILL - "Once again, we played like a team intimidated by Clarke Prep," Saints coach Duane Johnson bemoaned after his team's 9-7 loss to the defending Class 2A state champ Clarke Prep Gators on Saturday night. "We outplayed them all over the field, we out hit them, we out pitched them, but we still lost. We'll get another shot at them this weekend. We'll see if we have gained any confidence."

Patrician lost two out of three from Clarke Prep last season, including the extra inning one-run defeat in last year's state semi-finals that ended the Saints season. Despite the now three-game losing streak to the Gators, Patrician should get another crack at the now-Class 3A Clarke Prep side during the Patrician Invitational this weekend. If not, they still have the Gators three more times on the schedule, two of which will be in Grove Hill.

In the most recent loss to Clarke Prep on Thursday, Patrician left a total of 14 runners on base, leaving the bases loaded twice. The Saints also committed six errors which led to all nine unearned runs.

Junior Barry Meeks got the start in the loss before being relieved by senior Lance Gibson. Meeks faced 18 batters in the time-limit shortened game, striking out four and allowing just two hits. Gibson entered in the fourth inning and pitched to 15 batters, allowing three hits with an amazing seven strikeouts.

Gibson also led the Saints at the plate with a 2-for-5 performance, while Meeks finished 2-for-3 with two doubles. Senior centerfielder Clay Goodwin went 3-for-4 for Patrician.

In Patrician's earlier 12-2 win over Jackson on Saturday, Gibson put the Saints up for good with a 3-run homer in the second inning. Gibson finished 3-for-4 with four RBI.

Designated hitter B.J. Bonner finished 2-for-4 at the plate in the win, while Meeks and Goodwin each collected one hit. Senior Tony Randolph added two hits for Patrician. Starting pitcher Mikell Bonner picked up the win, going the complete game while allowing just two hits.

Patrician (1-1) will host a tournament in Butler on March 2nd-3rd. Teams in the tourney include Escambia, Clarke Prep, South Choctaw, Sumter and Lamar.

Patrician will play the winner of Clarke Prep/Sumter at 9 a.m. on Saturday (3/3).



Mikell Bonner