

Meeks Slams Rebels

■ Saints shutout Rebels 12-0 behind a six-run fourth keyed by Grand Slam from Barry Meeks

By Colin Merritt
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — Leading just 1-0 in the fourth inning against a much improved South Choctaw squad, Patrician needed some runs to put away the scrappy Rebels. With the bases loaded and one out, Barry Meeks delivered, big time. With two runs already in, Meeks blasted a bases loaded home run over the center field fence to put Patrician up for good in the 12-0 win on Thursday in Butler.

The big inning was all that starting pitcher Lance Gibson needed. Gibson went five innings, allowing just one hit and one walk to go along with nine strike outs. Mikell Bonner came on for the last two innings and picked up the save with five strike outs and no hits.

Gibson finished 2-for-4 at the plate with a RBI double. B.J. Bonner also collected two hits, one a double, while Casey Landrum's two hits were both doubles.

Trent Gibson took the loss for South Choctaw (1-5), who got their lone hit, a single in the fourth inning, from Jacob Sullivan.

Barry Meeks got the start in the Saints next game, a road contest at Wilcox Academy in Camden on Friday. Meeks pitched well enough for the victory (seven innings, one hit, no walks, 11 K's), but actually got lucky to pick up a no-decision, as the Saints had to battle back for a last at-bat tie.

Trailing 3-2 after three fourth inning



Choctaw Sun photo by Marcus Gates

Patrician's B.J. Bonner is tagged out at home during the Saints 12-0 win over South Choctaw on Friday. Bonner finished 2-for-4 with a double.

errors put Wilcox on top, Tony Randolph's fielder's choice plated the tying run for Patrician. Meek's finished 3-4 with Gibson and B.J. Bonner picking up the other two hits in the game that was called due to darkness.

This region game is not a final and will be finished at some point later in the season, presumably when the two sides meet up again in Butler on March 22nd. Patrician (4-2) will next play at

Millry wins three at Dolphin Classic

■ Lady 'Cats beat Escambia, Brewbaker, Monroe, drop two to Class 3A powerhouse Ardmore

By Colin Merritt
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ORANGE BEACH — The Millry Lady Wildcats picked up three wins at the Dolphin Classic in Orange Beach over the weekend. However, they also picked up their only two losses of the season, dropping both games to a super strong Class 3A Ardmore squad. The Class 1A Cats returned to Millry with a 14-2 record.

After winning their opener 2-0 over Escambia behind a seven inning, 17 strikeout one-hitter from Kristen Skinner, Millry had to face Ardmore in the Friday night cap. Trailing 5-1 in the fourth with Jasmine Wells on the mound, Millry would allow seven runs in the fourth and let Ardmore take the run-away 12-1 win. Ardmore, a 4A sub-state finalist last season before dropping to 3A this year, got two homers and a triple from Stephanie Steadman.

On day two of the tournament, Millry would beat Monroe 5-1 behind another strong outing from Kristen Skinner. The junior went five innings, allowing no hits with 15 strikeouts. Skinner got all the runs she needed when Millry staked her to a 3-0 first inning lead thanks to a two-run double from Jessica Touchstone. Crystal Thead added a single and Jessica Ganus walked twice, stole two bases and scored two runs for Millry.

Immediately after the win, Millry had to turn around and play Class 4A Brewbaker. Jasmine Wells drew the start for the Lady Wildcats and picked up the win despite trailing 3-0 late in

the game. Millry would take the lead in the fourth inning with a four-run rally thanks to a double from Jessica Touchstone and singles from Kristen Skinner, Jasmine Wells and Kayla Dyess.

Brewbaker would then tie the game on a towering home run off reliever Kristen Skinner, before a two-run game-winning double from Kayla Dyess delivered the Cats the dramatic 6-4 victory. Skinner, Dyess, Jessica Ganus and Jasmine Wells each had two hits in the win.

Millry would get knocked out of the tournament Saturday night after a 2-0 loss to Ardmore. Ardmore, who finished second in the tourney behind champ John Curtis of Louisiana, took a 1-0 lead in the first inning off Kristen Skinner after a single and two passed-balls plated a run. Despite Skinner's five inning, four-hit, eight strike out performance, Millry couldn't score against the powerful Ardmore side and lost 2-0. Skinner was 2-for-3 at the plate with Jessica Ganus and Paige Windham picking up the other two hits.

Millry finished fifth in the 12-team tournament, an accomplishment that had coach Ronnie Hubbert satisfied.

"On the second day we played like we were supposed to," Hubbert said, noting his team's drastic improvement in the second game against Ardmore after losing by 10 runs in the first meeting. "We even had our chances against Ardmore, but we just didn't execute. We beat some good squads and got close against a great Ardmore team."

Millry (14-2) will travel to Sweetwater on Tuesday, March 13th and host Southern Choctaw on Thursday, March 15th.

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