

Bears Reach SAC Tournament Title Game

Written by Staff Reports

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The Lenoir-Rhyne Softball Team (33-14) split its two games on Saturday at Whitley Field to advance to the 2013 Food Lion SAC Tournament Championship on Sunday. L-R lost to Catawba (32-17) by a 2-1 score before staying alive with a 2-0 victory over Wingate (32-20-1) in eight innings. Lenoir-Rhyne will face Catawba in the finals on Sunday beginning at 1:00 p.m. The Bears will need to beat the Indians twice, however, to win their fourth straight league tournament crown.

Catawba 2, Lenoir-Rhyne 1

The Indians' Carley Tysinger (Lexington, N.C.) improved to 25-8 on the year after leading Catawba to the win. Tysinger allowed just four hits and one unearned run to go along with nine strikeouts as Catawba advanced to the championship game.

The Indians scored single runs in each of the first and second innings, respectively, and held on for the win.

Holli Chandler (New London, N.C.) delivered an RBI single in the first inning for the Indians while the Bears were hurt by an error in each of the first two frames.

For L-R, freshman catcher Lauren Elder (Taylorsville, N.C.) drove in the Bears' lone run with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the third inning while freshman pitcher Maryann Hoskins (Havelock, N.C.) fell to 14-6 with the loss.

Lenoir-Rhyne 2, Wingate 0 (eight innings)

L-R remained alive in the tournament and advanced to the finals after beating the Bulldogs for the second time in as many days. The Bears broke a scoreless tie in the eighth inning with a pair of runs while L-R freshman Brandi Hole (Sandy Ridge, N.C.) pitched a four-hit shutout for the win. Hole improved to 18-8 on the season to go along with four strikeouts in the victory.

In the eighth inning, freshman designated player Ashley Oliver (Newton, N.C.) drove in a run with a sacrifice fly before senior outfielder Megan Laxton (Taylorsville, N.C.) connected on an RBI single. Lenoir-Rhyne senior first baseman Jessica Fellmeth (Waxhaw, N.C.) led the Bears offensively with three hits and a run scored in the contest.

Wingate's Stacey Houser (Mooresville, N.C.) also went the distance but fell to 23-12 on the season.

Photo Courtesy: Brandi Hole, L-R Athletics