

## Bears Struggle At Mid-South Classic

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, 05 March 2012 06:06

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The No. 22 Lenoir-Rhyne Softball Team (18-5) lost twice on the final day of the Mid-South Classic Sunday afternoon at Tyger River Park. L-R fell to Columbus State (1-0) and Lander (7-1) on the day and the Bears went 2-3 for the tournament. The Cougars' Mollie Russell (Decatur, Ala.) threw a

no-hitter to lift Columbus State to a 1-0 win in Sunday's first game. Russell allowed just one walk while striking out seven batters en route to the victory. Columbus State scored the game's lone run in the top of the second inning when Morgan Staffins (Loganville, Ga.) crossed the plate on a Lenoir-Rhyne error. L-R senior Dawon Millwood (Hixson, Tenn.) allowed just one unearned run to go along with six strikeouts despite the loss. Millwood fell to 8-3 on the year. In game two, the Bears loped to Lander Lander, 7-1. The Bearcats plated three runs in the bottom of the first inning and never looked back in upending the Bears. Lander's Jaime Presnell (Campobello, S.C.) had an RBI double in the frame and the Bearcats added a pair of runs in the fourth and fifth innings, respectively, to make it a 7-0 final. Kelsey Davis (Starr, S.C.) finished with two hits and two runs batted in to lead the Bearcats while Bear senior Lauren Harris (Yadkinville, N.C.) fell to 4-1 after suffering the defeat, her first on the year. Lenoir-Rhyne junior outfielder Shania Johnson (Hickory, N.C.) delivered the Bears' only run of the contest with an RBI single in the top of the sixth inning to help L-R avoid the shutout.

### Saturday's Games

#### No. 4 North Georgia 6, Lenoir-Rhyne 4

North Georgia's Hilary Cox (Douglasville, ) broke a four-all tie with a solo home run in the top of the fifth that proved to be the game-winner for the Saints.

Cox's round-tripper was one of three home runs hit by North Georgia on the day in a rematch of the last two NCAA Division II Southeast Super Regional qualifiers.

L-R senior catcher Sarah Atkins (Newport News, Va.) finished with two hits and three runs batted in to lead the Bears despite the loss.

Millwood suffered the setback on the mound for Lenoir-Rhyne's while North Georgia's Jessica Coan (Duluth, Ga.) was credited with the win.

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### **Lenoir-Rhyne 7, No. 23 Flagler 4**

Senior shortstop Carlee Carpenter (Newton, N.C.) led the Bears with three hits and three RBI as Lenoir-Rhyne jumped out to a 7-0 lead en route to the win.

The Bears took control with four runs in the bottom of the second inning and then put the contest away with a three-run fifth inning. Carpenter hit a two-run single in the fifth frame for L-R.

Lenoir-Rhyne junior Megan Laxton (Taylorsville, N.C.) improved to 6-1 on the season after taking the win while Donna Munafo (Satellite Beach, Fla.) suffered the loss for Flagler.

### **Friday's Game**

#### **Lenoir-Rhyne 3, Glenville State 2**

L-R won its 10th straight game behind Carpenter, who finished four-for-four with a run scored. Laxton notched the win on the mound for the Bears while Millwood pitched the final two innings of scoreless ball for her first save of the year. Glenville State's Meagan Lesser (Mineral, Va.) suffered the setback the Pioneers.

Lenoir-Rhyne opens South Atlantic Conference play on Thursday in a doubleheader on Thursday against Catawba in Salisbury, N.C., beginning at 2:00 p.m.

**Photo Courtesy: Dawon Millwood, LRU Athletics**