

OPSU Ends Softball Season with Thriller

oodwell, Okla.-Ten Oklahoma Panhandle State University seniors all played in their final game in an Aggie uniform Saturday afternoon and kept their fans involved through all seven innings with some great plays in the third game of the series against Texas A&M International.

The Dustdevils earned a run in the first inning for an early lead. Junna'e Dai'Re smacked a lead-off, stand-up triple in the second and scored the tying run off a Britnie Weddle sacrifice fly. In third Kaitlin McCool hit a lead-off double and advanced to third when Brandi Heath hit a sacrifice bunt. Emily Vasquez followed that with a single to send McCool home and then dependable Dai'Re singled to score Vasquez and the Aggies took a 3-1 lead.

Both teams remained scoreless until TAMIU banged out nine runs in the fifth, but OPSU refused to quit. Krista Bomak stepped up to the plate in the fifth and doubled, scoring Kari Pitts and Vasquez. The Dustdevils scored a single run in the sixth that the Aggies answered when Heath hit a sacrifice fly to get Cross safely home to put the score at 11-6, TAMIU. The Dustdevils increased their lead to 12-6 in the seventh and the Aggies still held on. Bomak led off with a single in the seventh that Saldana followed with another single. Weddle doubled and second base runner Bomak got her wheels going and slid into home while Saldana went on to third. Saldana scored easily on a passed ball, and then Weddle took advantage of a bad toss by the catcher to score. Unfortunately, the rally fell short and women lost the game 12-9, but the women played one of the best games of the season.

Over the three game series, Junna'e Dai'Re, at right field, made a number of seemingly impossible catches, getting eight putouts total with five of those on Saturday. On Saturday, Dai'Re and Weddle both went 2-4 at the plate and Bomak and Weddle each had two RBIs. Starting pitcher Kayla Pollard threw just over five innings, allowing seven hits. A'lex Koonce was credited with the loss.

Seniors honored prior to the game included A'lex Koonce, Kaitlin McCool, Krista Bomak, Jordan Saldana, Presj'el Dai'Re, Britnie Weddle, Brandi Heath, Julie Cross, Kari Pitts and Kayla Pollard. Destyni Traylor was also recognized, but was unable to attend the game.

Head coach Meghan Mulcahy and assistant coach Jason Miner now tackle the difficult task of filling the spots the seniors leave behind and the Aggies ended their season 7-44 and 2-13 in the Heartland Conference.

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