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Seward Softball Splits in Altus

After their scheduled Cowtown Classic Tournament was snowed out over the weekend, the Seward County Lady Saints added a Sunday double header in Altus, Oklahoma where they were set to take on Clarendon and the home team, Western Oklahoma State. The Lady Saints would split the double dip with identical scores, taking game one 9-1 over the Bulldogs before dropping game two 9-1 to the Pioneers.

With just two returning starters back in the lineup it was expected that the Lady Saints might have trouble scoring runs early but nobody expected that their first time through the lineup yielded an 0-9. Thankfully for the young Seward squad, they had their ace in the circle and Sydney Cicchetti was as advertised, blanking the Bulldogs through four as well to keep the game scoreless. In the Seward half of the 4th they would get things going as Breanna Diaz would get hit by a pitch to lead off the inning and Leah Sitter and Tiffany Santistevan would back that up with base hits to load the bases with no outs. With ducks on the pond, Jill Grounds would single up the box to score a pair and give the Lady Saints the 2-0 lead. Seward wasn't done yet as Michelle Duford would drive home the Lady Saints third run of the inning on a ground out and after 4 Seward led 3-0. The Lady Saints would again get three runs in the 5th inning as Bianca Adame singled, stole second, and was driven home by Taylor McDougall who would later score as well to put Seward up 6-0. Clarendon would get their lone run of the game in the top of the 6th after a leadoff double but the Lady Saints '3' theme would continue in the bottom half of the inning as Kelsea Blackstock and Duford would start the inning off with singles and would be followed by a Bulldog error to load the bases with nobody out. In prime position to put the game away, Adame came up big, drilling an 0-1 delivery through the hole to drive in a pair and give Seward an 8-1 lead. After an intentional walk to McDougall to load the bases, Diaz would pick up her second hit in as many innings as she hammered one off the center field fence to drive home Ashley Sullivan to give the Lady Saints the 9-1 run rule win. The Lady Saints would pound out 10 hits in the win and all but one Seward starter would have a hit in the game. Diaz and Adame each had two hits while Diaz scored a pair of runs and Adame knocked in a pair. Cicchetti would go the distance, allowing just 6 hits and 1 run while striking out 5 in her 20th win in her Lady Saints career.

SEWARD COUNTY/CLARENDON BOX SCORE
<http://www.scccsaints.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4178:21311-vs-clarendon&catid=57:Softball&Itemid=199>

In game two the Lady Saints would square off with the home team, the Western Oklahoma State Pioneers. Seward would get a pair of first

inning hits but wouldn't be able to push anything across and with the momentum of getting out of the jam, the Pioneers would get five 1st inning runs during their half. Four hits, including a pair of doubles, would key the run scoring for Western Oklahoma but things weren't helped by the Lady Saints who committed two errors in the inning as well. Seward would strand a runner in both the 2nd and 3rd innings and the Pioneers would tack on yet another unearned run in their half of the 3rd to go ahead 6-0. Neither team would get anything going in the 4th as each went 1-2-3 during their at bats and the score remained in favor of Western Oklahoma as the 5th inning hit. Seward would get on the board as Adame singled and stole second before being knocked in by McDougall but that was all the Lady Saints would get and a one out walk and home run to follow it had Seward on the ropes down 8-1 in the bottom of the 5th. Following the home run, Tyresha Washington would double and after a ground out would keep her at third, the Western Oklahoma center fielder would score on the Lady Saints 4th error of the game to put the Pioneers up 9-1 and enforce the run rule. Seward would manage just 5 spread out hits in the game while Western Oklahoma racked up 9 including a combined 5 for 5 from their 7 and 8 hole hitters who also combined to drive in 5 runs and score 4. (Roy Allen)

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