

SPORTS

STATE
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first baseman Petra Mitchell. The Holy Cross first baseman was able to knock the ball down and then step on the bag for the easy out, but Humphries advanced to second base on the play.

Humphries scored on a hard hit double by Brittany Sosby that sailed past the left fielder's head but Sosby was left stranded and the second inning ended with the Lady Jackets up 2-0.

In the top of the third inning the lead off Holy Cross batter reached first on a hit, but was quickly moved down while trying to reach second

base on an attempted steal with Hollie Bretz punning her down with two to three feet to spare while Gilkerson made another tag out. Morgan raked up another strike out and soon the Lady Jackets came to bat again with a 2-0 lead.

In the bottom of the third inning Shelby Sosby reached first on a single down the third base line and moved to third on some good base running after a hard-hit Bromagen grounder to the short stop.

Sosby trotted home on a blistering line drive home run to left field by Brandi Messick. C.C. Humphries

got another hit as did Brittany Sosby, but they didn't score.

The lead off hitter in the top off the fourth for Holy Cross got a blooper double, and moved to third and later er home on two wild pitches to put Holy Cross on the scoreboard but trailing 4-1. Morgan struck out another and Petra Mitchell caught a nasty pop up in the fence near the home dugout and caught another one deep behind first base to stop Holy Cross.

Gilkerson walked in the bottom of the fourth inning and quickly stole second base. Bretz walked, but the

runners advanced no further when Shelby Sosby hit a screaming line drive deep to center field, which was caught, and later Ashley Bromagen hit a hard grounder up the middle which the pitcher grabbed and tossed to first base for the third out.

Morgan struck out the first batter for Holy Cross in the top of the 5th inning and Mitchell tagged out the second batter who hit a hard grass cutter between short-stop and third base. Shelby Sosby made a clean hit up the middle. Messick tagged another pitch deep to center field but it was caught.

Holy Cross loaded the bases for a nail-bitter in the top of the 5th inning, but Morgan's strong pitching led to another strike out. Bretz caught a blooper behind the plate and Shelby Sosby caught a pop-up in shallow left center to end the game.

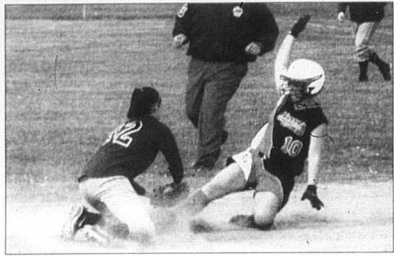
In 18 games the Lady Jackets have scored 160 runs while only giving up 41 runs to opponents.

"We've played well all season and we've got a great group of players," Coach Bretz said. "Our players always compete and never give up. We've got a strong program here in Nicholas County and we've got some very strong younger players coming on. Our JV team is 11-0 right now."

Bretz also strongly praised the efforts of this year's seniors C.C. Humphries, Brandi Messick, Hollie Bretz and Ashley Bromagen, for their leadership on and off the field.

The team will depart for NCHS Friday afternoon for Louisville. Bretz said he was deeply thankful for all the support community members have shown the team.

"Oh my. We've got the best fans in the state," he said.



Photos by Charles Mettux

Above, Jessica Gilkerson tags out a Holy Cross runner attempting to steal second base after receiving a great throw from Lady Jackets catcher Hollie Bretz. Bretz and Gilkerson teamed up for three outs on attempted steals. Below, Shelby Sosby hits a line drive deep into center field.



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