



Kentwood Wins Key Game Against Kentlake

Journal staff

April 20, 2006

KENT — After struggling at the plate, Kentwood's Sonya Ballas broke out Thursday afternoon. And her teammates finally broke through.

Ballas blasted a three-run homer over the left-center fence, leading the Conquerors past Kentlake in a South Puget Sound League North Division game, 8-3.

"My kids are just doing somersaults," Kentwood coach Mike Landry said. "It's the first time we've beaten Kentlake in a long time. We were waiting for this one for a little while. It was a big team win."

With the victory, the Conquerors (11-3) remain in the mix with Kentlake (11-2) and Auburn Riverside (13-0) for one of the North Division's top playoff berths. The top five teams advance to the postseason.

The Conquerors poured it on often and early Thursday, scoring three runs in the first and third innings to take a 6-0 lead. Danielle Kauzlarich got the offense rolling in the first with an RBI single.

Kauzlarich, who has been on fire all season, finished with three hits, bringing her season average to .533.

Sam Sutton and Ballas also added RBIs in the inning.

Ballas then gave the Conks all the runs they would need with her 3-run shot in the third.

"She was struggling," Landry noted. "She fouled off a couple tough pitches ... then just got ahold of one."

Kentwood chased Kentlake ace Kelsey Reynolds with one out in the third inning. **Felecia Harris (Sidewinder 18 Gold)** came in and stopped the bleeding, striking out 11 in 4^a innings of work.

After falling behind, 6-0, **Breanne Bilbrey (Sidewinder 16U)** cut Kentlake's deficit to 6-3 with a three-run homer.

Kirsten Shreve went the distance in the circle to pick up the win.

"I was sweating bullets a little bit," Landry said.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Kentwood	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	8	10	1
Kentlake	0	0	0	0	3	0	x	3	4	0

Kirsten Shreve and **Krysta Pennington**; Kelsey Reynolds, **Felecia Harris (3)** and Kaylee Powell. WP – Shreve. LP – Reynolds. Highlights: **Carly Starke (KW) 2-4, 1 run scored, 2 RBIs**; **Felecia Harris (KL) 11 Ks in 4 IP, 1-3, 2B**; **Breanne Bilbrey (KL) 1-3, 3-run home run.**