



Fastpitch softball: Kentlake soph tames Riverside

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May 3, 2006

AUBURN — First there's the smile. Then the stare. Then the glare.

When Felecia Harris steps into the pitcher's circle, her funning turns to gunning. The hard-throwing Kentlake sophomore gets down to business, and mows down opposing hitters, just like she did Wednesday against rival Auburn Riverside with a share of the South Puget Sound League North Division fastpitch softball title on the line.

"She really gets her game face on," Kentlake coach Greg Kaas said.

Harris, who rotates on the mound with savvy senior Kelsey Reynolds, tossed a two-hit gem and struck out nine as the Falcons shut out the hard-hitting Ravens 7-0 at Game Farm Park, forcing a tiebreaker game. Riverside beat Reynolds, the school's all-time leader in wins, 3-2 when the teams met on March 28.

Both teams finish the regular season 18-2 overall and 16-2 in league, and will play Friday or Monday to decide seeding into the SPSL tournament. The winner is assured a berth into the West Central/Southwest 4A bi-district tournament.

Harris, who also smacked a three-run triple and had four runs batted in, said she was surprised when told Tuesday she would pitch against the Ravens, who feature a flame-thrower in senior Ashley Sellers. Harris and Sellers are teammates on the Washington Sidewinders Gold club team.

"I got a big smile on my face," said Harris (10-0).

She also got an early case of the nerves, hitting the first batter she faced, then giving up a bunt single.

"It was a little shaky," Harris admitted. "That happens to me a lot of times. But after I get in a zone, which is what I call it, I start shutting them down."

Sellers, probably the only North Division pitcher who throws harder than Harris, struck out 11, but gave up seven hits — including two each by Harris, Merissa Jannsen and Lauren Nielson. Three went for extra bases.

The Ravens were without regular catcher Vanessa Bryant, out with an ankle sprain, forcing shortstop Kelley Kaneshiro to move behind the plate.