

Experience Prevails for NM

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North Mason's Katelyn Stanley pitched a complete-game shutout in Tuesday's win over Olympic League Class 2A rival Klahowya. Stanley struck out seven, walked none and gave up just two hits.

In the first battle between two of the better pitchers in West Sound, experience won out over heat.

Katelyn Stanley led North Mason past the visiting Klahowya Eagles and flame-thrower Kazandra Holliday 4-0 in an Olympic League fastpitch game between Class 2A rivals on Tuesday.

Stanley pitched all seven innings, struck out seven, walked none and painted the corners of the plate all day — especially difficult considering the driving rain and hail in the first three innings.

But as the sun started to peek through the gray clouds, Stanley's game experience and calm demeanor came through.

The league MVP from a year ago gave up just two hits — one in the second and another in the seventh — as the defending state champion Bulldogs (4-2 overall, 3-1 league) bounced back from a 4-1 loss against Olympic on Monday.

Holliday threw a solid game as well, but the small mistakes by her infield cost the Eagles (4-3, 3-1) in the end. Holliday, a two-time all-league pitcher, pitched a complete game with six strikeouts, three walks and three hit batters.

"That one play with the throwing error — that's what made it," said first-year Klahowya coach Holly Carver. "I told the girls that it was better that we didn't just lose 1-0, because that would have been because of that error."

North Mason freshman Tristan Stromberg reached on an error in the third inning and later scored on another error to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead.

That was all Stanley needed, as she retired 12 of the final 13 batters she faced, allowing just a leadoff single to Holliday in the seventh.

"We came out with a lot more intensity today," North Mason coach Paul Grande said. "We just had a little trouble with the high outside pitch. We didn't chase pitches and the kids were very disciplined at the plate and very aggressive."

Klahowya's errors wouldn't have mattered much if the Eagles' bats had come alive, Carver said.

"We've got to score one too," she said. "We were hitting her, we just couldn't get base hits. I thought for sure we were going to turn around and start hitting them in. We just couldn't get anything going."

Carver said Holliday did her job on the mound.

"We just couldn't hit," she said.

Where the Eagles struggled offensively, North Mason came through with a clutch hit from Emily Anderson to put the game away for good in the bottom of the sixth. Before her players went to hit, Grande told them to get another run.

The Bulldogs went out and scored three.

Anderson's two-run double to left field made it 3-0 and the sophomore later scored on a fielder's choice.

Carver said the game came down to mental toughness.

"These girls have been playing these same girls what, three, four years now," she said. "So, (North Mason's) always been on top and (Klahowya) has got to get over that."

Grande said she was happy to have one of her players come through with a clutch hit.

"We're bound to actually have a key hit sometime," she said. "Hopefully we're turning the corner here and picking up some of that intensity we've lacked and excitement."

North Mason 4, Klahowya 0

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Kazandra Holliday and Jocylynn Meadows. Katelyn Stanley and Anna Heitstuman. **W**—Stanley. **L**—Holliday.

Leading hitters—**Kla**: Holliday 1-3, Elise Gianacakos 1-3. **NM**: Emily Anderson 1-3 (2b,2RBI), Jennifer Hupper 1-3 (RBI).