Cougars top Warriors in soggy affair

Written by Tom Fruehling Saturday, 12 July 2014 22:09 -



Their season suddenly ended by a downpour, Washington softball coach Erin Jones could not see sending her girls home without anything to show for it.

So before the lights were turned off at Franklin Field Saturday night, she had the whole team spread out on the diamond, pouring quick-dry materials in the infield puddles and raking it smooth and dry.

If nothing else, the clean-up convinced her that the Class 5A regional semifinal game with Kennedy should not have been called after five complete innings with the Cougars awarded a 2-0 victory.

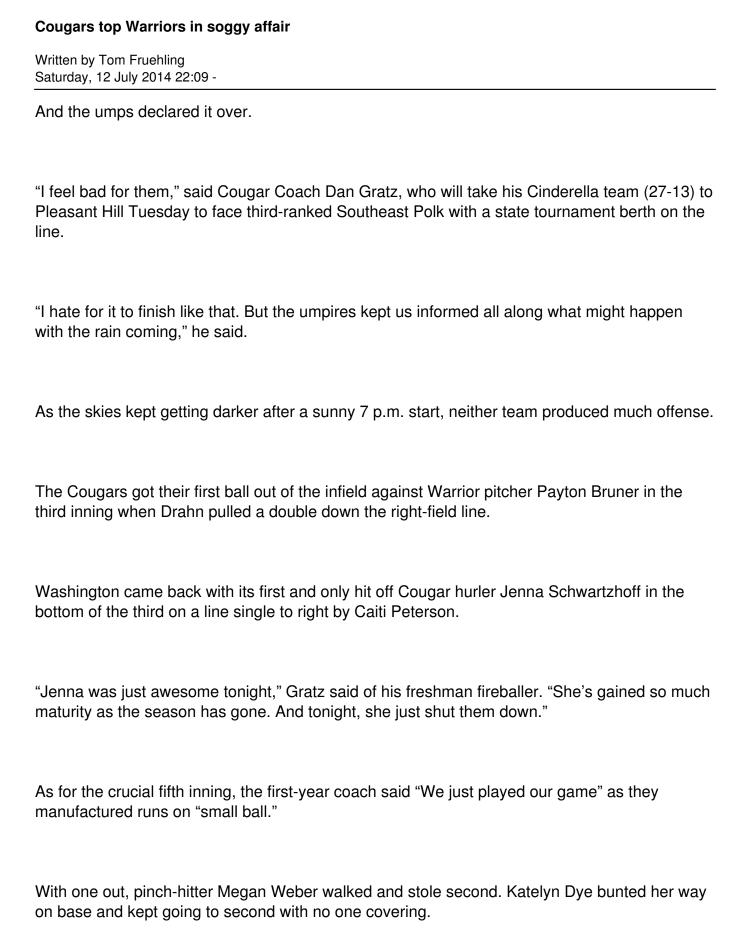
"As you can see," Jones said, "the field has drained and is playable. The umpires shouldn't have called it so soon."

It was, of course, a moot point.

Under sprinkles and black clouds, Kennedy scored a pair of runs in its half of the fifth inning on a hit to right field by Tianna Drahn.

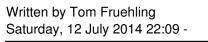
Washington's effort to catch up was doused when Bria Lenten was called out at third on a fielder's choice.

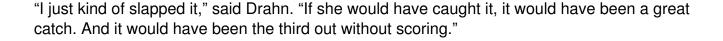
Then the rain came, in sheet after sheet for the next 15 minutes.



After a pop-up for the second out, Drahn sliced a blooper to right that the Warrior fielder dove for and had in her glove before it bounced out as two runs scored.

Cougars top Warriors in soggy affair





But it fell for a hit, and that was what the Cougars needed.

"It was a clutch hit," said Gratz, a gift from his spunky leadoff batter on the eve of his 25th birthday.

For the Warriors, who closed their turnaround season at 22-17, it was a bitter ending.

"Taking nothing from Kennedy," Jones pointed out. "They got one big hit at a crucial time. In softball that's all it takes. I hate for it to end this way for my seniors.

"I'm disappointed. But I couldn't be more proud of these girls. They've fought hard all year. This will build a fire for next year."