

Kristen Winter has been an outstanding softball player and a top-notch leader for a long time at Xavier High School and Kirkwood Community College.

Now she's even better, thanks partly to her work as an assistant coach at Xavier last summer.

"You just know the game better," she said Saturday after helping No.6 Kirkwood crush lowa Lakes in a doubleheader. "You know what to look for in an at-bat, you know what pitches they're going to throw you more. Knowing how to run the bases was a big one for me.

"It gives you a little more confidence, to be honest," she said. "I've been playing the game forever and I love it, but you feel more in control of the game."

Winter, a sophomore second baseman, went 5-for-7 in the doubleheader with a double, home run, three runs scored and six RBIs as the Eagles (34-3, 14-0) swept the Lakers, 21-5 and 13-2.

Both games lasted only five innings due to the mercy rule.

Winter helps No.6 Eagles push streak to 27

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