



2010 Minnesota Valley Lutheran Softball

As Gathered by New Ulm Sports Central



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Material secured from websites of New Ulm Daily Journal and other newspapers, contributions of teams and schools, NUSC and others.

REPRODUCTION POLICY With exception of major errors (scores, winners, etc.) articles reprinted from media posts on the internet are presented as posted.

Coach:
Julie Detjen
Assistants: Emily Timmerman, Jeff Koepsell, Vanesa King
Manager:
Jenifer Birr

Enrollment (9-12):

222

Year Founded:

1979

Admin. Region: **2A**

TEAM PAGES DIRECTORY

2 Team picture and roster **3** Season stats and awards **4** Pre-season outlook **5-18** Game reports

Minnesota Valley Lutheran Girl's Softball Schedule and Results

Date	Opponent	Site	Score	W/L	Record	Page
4/18/2010	Wabasso	Wabasso	5-11	L	0-1	5
4/12/2010	Sleepy Eye	Sleepy Eye	6-5	W	1-1	5
4/13/2010	G-F-W	Mn Valley Lutheran	14-3 (5)	W	2-1	5
4/15/2010	Buffalo Lake-Hector	Mn Valley Lutheran	4-2	W	3-1	6
4/17/2010	LeSueur-Henderson	Maple River Tourn.	0-6	L	3-2	8
4/17/2010	Lester Pr/Holy Tr	Maple River Tourn.	12-11 (8)	W	4-2	8
4/17/2010	Dover-Eyota	Maple River Tourn.	7-2	W	5-2	8
4/19/2010	New Ulm Cathedral	New Ulm Cathedral	0-1	L	5-3	8
4/22/2010	Springfield	Riverside, Springfield	10-0	w	6-3	9
4/22/2010	Springfield	Riverside, Springfield	13-5	w	7-3	9
4/23/2010	Lester Pr/Holy Tri	MVL— cancelled				
4/27/2010	Nicollet	Mn Valley Lutheran	8-12	L	7-4	10
4/29/2010	Sleepy Eye	Mn Valley Lutheran	6-5	W	8-4	11
5/3/2010	Sleepy Eye St. Mary's	SE St. Mary's	2-4	L	8-5	13
5/3/2010	Sleepy Eye St. Mary's	SE St. Mary's	6-13	L	8-6	13
5/6/2010	G-F-W	G-F-W High Sch	4-6	L	8-7	14
5/7/2010	Wabasso	MVL— postponed				
5/10/2010	Buffalo Lake-Hector	Buff Lake-Hector— postponed				
5/13/2010	Comfrey/Cedar Mtn	Mn Valley Lutheran	6-8	L	8-8	16
5/13/2010	Comfrey/Cedar Mtn	Mn Valley Lutheran	11-3	W	9-8	16
5/14/2010	Buffalo Lake-Hector	Buffalo Lake-Hector	9-8	W	10-8	16
5/17/2010	New Ulm Cathedral	MVL (make-up)	0-7	L	10-9	16
5/20/2010	Wabasso	MVL (make-up)	5-11	L	10-10	17
<u>Sectional Playoffs</u>						
5/25/2010	SE St. Mary's	MVL Sub-Section	5-6	L	10-11	18



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Team Rosters for MVL 2010 Girl's Softball

#	Name	Pos	Grade
1	Andrea Biedenbender	IF	12
2	Kayleigh Kassuelke	C	11
3	Carlie Maasz	P	9
5	Jeanna Birr	IF	10
6	Emily Wessel	IF	10
7	Abby Kretsch	P	12
8	Mindy Sommer	OF	12
9	Marisa Kroells	IF	9
11	Katelyn Stark	OF	11
12	Jessica Bruns	OF	11
13	Mashaye Wilson	IF	12
16	Mikyla Weilage	C	9



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Reserved for Year End Stats and Awards



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MVL seeks improvement

By Dave Clark, Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - In the case of the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers softball team, a little dyslexia might be a good thing.

Last year, the Chargers finished with a less than stellar 3-19 record, due mainly to a lack of clutch hitting and some leaky defense. While no one on the team is suggesting they'll go 19-3 in 2010, there is definitely optimism there will be significant improvement.

Three of MVL's four senior players spent time playing summer softball with traveling teams featuring players from many other, larger schools. It's hoped the positive experience of playing winning softball will create a change of the Chargers culture of thinking, i.e. expecting to win instead of hoping not to lose.

At the forefront of these seniors is shortstop Mashaye Wilson, who was MVL's lone All-Section, All-Conference player who batted over .400 in 2009 and in numbers alone was a top player.

"The teams we played in the summer league had faster pitching and was just a faster pace of game in general," Wilson said. "I think that'll help this year. As a senior, coach [Julie] Detjen expects us to set an example, and I think my job will be to keep encouraging the younger players and helping them do the right things and keep their heads up."

For personal goals, Wilson hopes to "have a better batting average and not make any errors. I think my arm's gotten stronger and I have a quicker release as a result of doing some weightlifting."

Senior pitcher Abby Kretsch was also on the travelling team and said it "showed how other teams played. I think we'll have more wins this year." Kretsch is also excited to have another pitcher to take some of the pressure off in freshman left hander Carlie Maasz. One personal goal for Kretsch involves a family member.

"I'm just nine strikeouts behind my aunt, Amy [Markgraf] Rich on MVL's all time strikeout list and I'd like to beat her."

Senior third baseman Andrea Biedenbender is a 3-time All-Conference honorable mention and found the summer team important because "it gave Mashaye and I a chance to keep playing.

"But playing with other teams builds confidence, although it's nice to get back to your school team. I don't care what happens to me, I just want to have fun. I really, really think we're better. We're more solid in the infield and this year, we have a really good chance to be better." While senior Mindy Sommer didn't go on tour, she has the unenviable task of trying to play center field in the constant wind tunnel known as MVL's home field off highway 14.

"Sometimes the wind is tough," Sommer said. "This year, I'll have more confidence in being the leader in the outfield. Last year was my first year being the leader. My goal is to not let anything get by me and improve my batting average."

Rounding out the team is junior catcher and outfielder Kayleigh Kassulke, outfielders Jessica Bruns and Katelyn Stark, both of whom move up from junior varsity, sophomore Emily Wessel, who'll see time at first and second base, and freshman Maasz, who will play outfield and first when not pitching, and Mikyla Weilage, who played junior varsity last year.

"The three girls on the team gained experience going to the nationals and got used to winning and trying to change the culture of our team," Detjen said. "We have a mix of all four years, with four seniors who just want to have a positive memory. I'm thrilled to have the younger girls to work with. We have some good experience coming on the team. We'll have some depth we've been missing for a while. "We had some defensive issues last year," Detjen said. "Competition for each position will make everyone better. Overall, it's a different kind of mix and we'll do



Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Mashaye Wilson was voted the team's most valuable player last season.



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Wabasso 11, MVL 5

POSTED April 9, 2010 New Ulm Journal

WABASSO - Wabasso defeated Minnesota Valley Lutheran 11-5 Thursday in Tomahawk Conference softball action.

Desi Kramer picked up the win for Wabasso. Kramer went all seven innings, giving up five runs on nine hits and three walks, with two strikeouts. Alonna Baune went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs, Shauna Rogotzke was also 2-for-4 with a double but with three RBIs for the Rabbits.

Abby Kretsch got the loss for MVL. Kretsch also went the distance, giving up 11 runs on 12 hits, giving up one walk along with six strikeouts. Kretsch also went 2-for-3 at the plate with a double and one RBI. Mashaye Wilson went 2-for-4 with an RBI for the Chargers.

Chargers edge Sleepy Eye, 6-5

POSTED: April 13, 2010

SLEEPY EYE - Minnesota Valley Lutheran defeated Sleepy Eye 6-5 Monday in Tomahawk Conference softball play.

Picking up the win for MVL was Carlie Maasz, pitching all seven innings, giving up five runs on six hits with seven strikeouts. Mashaye Wilson led the offense with a double, triple and three RBIs.

Karissa Hilmer took the loss for Sleepy Eye, pitching just 2/3 of an inning, giving up three runs on two hits and three walks with two strikeouts. Leah Siefkes had two triples driving in two runs for the Indians.

Chargers win big over GFW

By Dave Clark

POSTED: April 14, 2010

NEW ULM - Sitting at the ballpark, one often hears someone yell out, "ok, now everybody score."

Tuesday afternoon the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers softball team did just that.

Every one of their nine players crossed the plate en route to a 5-inning 14-3 victory over the Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop Thunderbirds and equalling their records at 2-1.

Abby Kretsch went the distance for the Chargers, allowing eight hits, but more importantly, no walks.

"I still have no walks this year," Kretsch said of her second outing of the season. "But [with two strikeouts] I'm now tied with my aunt [Amy Markgraf Rich] on MVL's strikeout list, so that's exciting. But this was a good win for us. With the defense I have behind me, it's also less stressful on the mound. The way the wind was blowing out there, I felt like I had to throw it a little harder."

While the wind was consistent, the Thunderbirds defense wasn't, committing four costly errors.

"It was just a poor night," GFW coach Brian Magnusson said. "We didn't play as a team. It's some growing pains, but we'll get it figured out."



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Staff photo by Mary Roufs
Minnesota Valley Lutheran pitcher Abby Kretsch winds up during the third inning of the game against Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop on Tuesday night at MVL. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

The game started for MVL with Andrea Biedenbender reaching base, then scoring on a swinging bunt by Emily Wessel that was thrown into right field on an attempt to get Wessel out at first.

With Wessel taking second on the error, a second error happened on a Kretsch grounder that allowed Wessel to come home and make it 2-0.

The runners advanced on a passed ball, with both scoring on a single to right by Kayleigh Kassuelke. After a wild pitch put Kassuelke at second, she scored on a single to center by Mikyla Weilage.

Carlie Maasz reached on a throwing error, with Biedenbender's bloop single clearing the bases to give the Chargers a 7-0 lead.

MVL continued on in the second, as Kretsch led off with a double to the left field fence, followed by a single from Mashaye Wilson. Another single by Kassuelke made it 9-0, with another run forced in by a bases loaded walk that extended the Chargers lead to 10-0.

The Thunderbirds finally broke into the scoring column in the top of the fourth after MVL had scored again in the third. Kayla Schuette led off for GFW with a single to center, then made it 11-1 by scoring on Jamie Katzenmeyer's triple to right. A single to right by Abbie Osborne made it 11-2.

But in the bottom of the fourth, Katelyn Stark opened with a walk, stole second and scored on a Maasz single. Maasz came home on a single to center by Biedenbender, with Emily

Wessel eventually making it 14-2, with GFW scoring again in the top of the fifth.

"It feels good," MVL coach Julie Detjen said. "We've played sound the last two games. We kind of knew the potential was there, that it was up to the team to play well to get confidence in themselves. We took advantage of our speed and it was good to see the home crowd and some excitement."

Biedenbender was 2-for-2 with four runs batted in, while Kassuelke was 2-for-3 with four RBI, and Kretsch and Weilage were both 2-for-3. For GFW, Katzenmeyer was 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Schuette was also 2-for-3 and Osborne was 2-for-2.



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Chargers hold off Mustangs

POSTED: April 16, 2010

By Michael Gasset
Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - It's been a rough couple of years for the Minnesota Valley Lutheran softball team.

Now the Chargers are hoping those lean years are behind them.

With Thursday's 4-2 win over Buffalo Lake-Hector, MVL is now a perfect 3-0 to start the Tomahawk Conference season.

"This is a good place for us to be right now," MVL coach Julie Detjen said. "We have some good veteran leadership and they really want to get it done and they want to end their careers on a positive note. It's nice especially for those seniors because we have had a couple of tough years so it's nice to see some smiles on faces."

MVL has been getting it done so far this year with pitching. The Chargers have two reliable starters in Abby Kretsch and Thursday's winner Carlie Maasz.

"It's nice because Carlie is really coming on strong," Detjen said. "She is a nice compliment to Abby. We have a righty and a lefty [Maasz is the south paw] both are very composed on the mound. The girls behind both of them have been doing a great job."

Maasz pitched seven innings against BLH and allowed just three hits with six strikeouts and walked five.

The Chargers got things going offensively right away as Andrea Biedenbender and Emily Wessel led off the game with singles but MVL was unable to do anything with it and stranded bases loaded.

But the Chargers continued their offense in the second. Mikyla Weilage led off the inning getting hit by a pitch. Jessica Bruns singled and Biedenbender drove in Weilage with a groundout to short. Wessel followed with a well-placed double to the fence in right-center field to score Bruns and Kretsch drove in Wessel with a single to center. That gave MVL a 3-0 lead.

It added to its lead in the fifth as Mashaye Wilson and Kayleigh Kassulke walked and Wilson eventually scored on Kassulke's attempt to steal second, giving MVL a 4-0 cushion.

Meanwhile, Maasz was cruising right along but appeared to tire in the final few innings as she walked five in the last three. And in the seventh, the Mustangs finally got to her as Courtney Kramer and Brittany Lade walked. Jennifer Maiers singled to shallow right to score Kramer and Jessie Kalenberg grounded out to second, which scored Lade. Maasz forced Larissa Karl to ground out to third to end the game as BLH left the tying run at first base.

Kalenberg took the loss for the Mustangs. She pitched six innings and allowed four runs on eight hits with five walks and two strikeouts.

Erin Daak had two of their three hits in the game.

The Chargers were led by Biedenbender and Wessel with two hits and an RBI each. Kretsch also had an RBI. Wilson, Bruns and Maasz each had hits.



Staff photo by Mary Roufs
Minnesota Valley Lutheran pitcher Carlie Maasz throws a strike during the game against Buffalo Lake-Hector on Thursday night at MVL. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com



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MVL goes 2-1 at tourney

POSTED: April 18, 2010 New Ulm Journal

MAPLETON - The Minnesota Valley Lutheran softball team went 2-1 at the Maple River Tournament Saturday.

The Chargers fell to LeSueur-Henderson 6-0 but beat Dover-Eyota 7-2 and Lester Prairie/Holy Trinity 12-11 in eight innings.

Andrea Biedenbender was 5-for-11 with a home run, three RBIs and four runs scored. Mashaye Wilson was 4-for-10 with four stolen bases and three runs scored. Kayleigh Kassuelke was 3-for-8 with two RBIs including the game winner against LP/HT. Jessica Bruns was 2-for-7 with four RBIs and two runs scored.

In the pitching circle, Abby Kretsch pitched 9 1/3 innings with seven strikeouts, seven walks, 14 hits and 15 runs. She also took the loss against LSH.

Carlie Maasz picked up the two wins. She pitched 12 2/3 innings and allowed four runs on 10 hits with five walks and 12 strikeouts.

Greyhounds hang on

POSTED: April 20, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Jeremy Behnke

Journal Sports Editor

NEW ULM - Over the years, the Minnesota Valley Lutheran softball team has lost more than its share of games against cross-town rival New Ulm Cathedral.

But even though Monday's 1-0 loss to the Greyhounds may have shown a lot of progress made by the Chargers, it still was a tough pill to swallow in the end.

The Greyhounds survived a couple of baserunning mistakes and got a crucial out at home plate to stay unbeaten in Tomahawk Conference softball action Monday at Harman Park.

Down 1-0 in the top of the sixth, the Chargers had a chance to at least tie the game. With Mashaye Wilson on second base and two outs, Kayleigh Kassulke hit a hard grounder to second base that was bobbled by Cathedral second baseman Leah Eckstein.

MVL coach Julie Detjen saw Eckstein bobble the ball and sent Wilson home.

But Eckstein didn't panic and instead fired home, gunning down Wilson at the plate and ending the threat of the Chargers finally beating their cross-town rivals.



Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Minnesota Valley Lutheran shortstop Mashaye Wilson tags out New Ulm Cathedral's Taylor Moldan during the Greyhounds' win Monday at Harman Park in New Ulm. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com



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MVL wins

POSTED: April 23, 201 New Ulm Journal

MVL 10, Springfield 0; MVL 13, Springfield 5

SPRINGFIELD - Minnesota Valley Lutheran swept Springfield in Tomahawk Conference softball action.

In Game 1, Abby Kretsch got the win, allowing four hits and striking out five. Katie Timm took the loss for the Tigers.

Mashaye Wilson was 2-for-4 with three RBIs for the Chargers.

In the second game, Carlie Maasz got the win, giving up five runs in five innings. Dawn Roiger took the loss for the Tigers.

Andi Biedenbender hit a home run and had four runs scored for the Chargers and Timm had two hits and two RBIs for the Tigers.



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It was a play that Detjen would do all over again as it took a perfect throw to get the speedy Wilson out at the plate.

"We came in with a real positive attitude and we've been playing really well," Detjen said. "Mashaye is one of our more aggressive baserunners, so if you're not going to do it with her, who you going to do it with?"

Cathedral's Kasey Bode earned the win. She went the distance, allowing two hits. She struck out 10.

Freshman Carlie Maasz took the hard-luck loss for the Chargers. She went 5 2/3 innings, allowing three hits and she walked six.

"She plays summer ball with some of them [Cathedral players], but Carlie really doesn't get intimidated," Detjen said. "Carlie plays like a seasoned veteran, and I don't really have to worry about that Cathedral jitter thing. She knows it's been a long time [since MVL has beaten Cathedral], but we're getting closer."

The Greyhounds scored the game's only run in the bottom of the second inning when Amy Eckstein singled home Paige Pautzke. The Greyhounds had a golden opportunity to score earlier in the inning, but Kari Berg was out on a rundown between third and home with runners on second and third and one out.

The Greyhounds had another runner out in a similar situation in the fifth inning to end another scoring threat.

"I was frustrated with a couple of the runners that we lost," Cathedral coach Bob Mertz said. "A couple of times we sacrificed but we didn't wait for the bunt to get down."

Nicollet rallies past Chargers

POSTED: April 28, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Michael Gassett Journal Sports Writer

Note: Photograph published in newspaper was not posted to website.

NEW ULM - Minnesota Valley Lutheran's pitchers were uncharacteristically wild Tuesday. Nicollet's batters took advantage of that.

MVL led the entire game but sometimes it's the last three outs that are the toughest to get. Down 8-6, going into the top of the seventh inning, the Raiders sent 11 batters to the plate and roughed up the Chargers for six runs as Nicollet rallied back to take the nonconference softball game 12-8.

"We had to focus and know going into that inning, this could be our last at bat," Nicollet second baseman Kayla Wenner said. "To be able to go up there and hit like we did and to get on base was a really great thing and coming back was awesome."

Nicollet only had seven hits in the game but were helped by 13 walks from the MVL pitching staff. The Raiders also scored four of their runs on wild pitches.

"Both of our pitchers struggled and both of our catchers struggled because of it," MVL coach Julie Detjen said. "We let a lot of free ones get by and didn't let them earn a lot of them. We had errors all over the place and we can't do that."

Despite all of that, the Chargers never trailed in the game until that seventh inning.

Carissa Woller was hit by a pitch and scored on Jenna Mettler's triple to left. Courtney Struss reached on an error, which scored Mettler and tied the game at eight. Wenner quickly put the game in Nicollet's favor as she drove a 1-2 pitch over the fence in



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"I was hoping [it was gone]," Wenner said. "When I saw it go really high, I thought, 'it's going to be close.' When I saw it go over it was pretty awesome."

MVL jumped out to a 4-0 lead after the first two innings. Nicollet scored three in the third to cut the lead to one.

The Chargers kept their lead with a run in the fourth and two in the fifth and a single run in the sixth.

Meanwhile, Nicollet kept pace with three more runs in the fifth and sixth to make it 8-6 going into the seventh inning.

"We have had a couple of games where we have lost by one," Wenner said. "We haven't had a comeback like this but we've had a couple that have been close. This was really a great turnaround for us."

Carlie Maasz took the loss for the Chargers. She pitched five innings and allowed six runs on three hits with nine strikeouts and four walks. Abby Kretsch pitched the over two innings and allowed six runs on four hits with two strikeouts and nine walks.

"We haven't seen this all year so if you have to say it's good time for it, I guess it is," Detjen said. "It's better to do this in a non-conference game."

Mashaye Wilson was 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Kayleigh Kassulke, Emily Wessel, Katelyn Stark and Maasz each had an RBI.

For Nicollet, Sarah Meuer earned the win. She allowed eight runs on 10 hits with three strikeouts and two walks.

Mettler was 2-for-5 with an RBI. Wenner had a homer, two RBIs and two runs scored. Taylor Meuer scored three runs and Carissa Woller had an RBI.

Chargers hold off Sleepy Eye

POSTED: April 30, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Dave Clark

Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - The odds of the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers and Sleepy Eye Indians softball teams meeting in the playoffs is probably 6:5.

For the second time this year, the Chargers squeaked past the Indians with a 6-5 victory. On April 12, the game ended in regulation. Thursday was an 11-inning, beautifully played marathon that ended with Kayleigh Kassuelke's suicide squeeze bunt on a 1-2 count that scored Andrea Biedenbender.

Kassuelke's effort gave the win to Abby Kretsch, who threw all 11 innings for the Chargers.

"I just took a deep breath before I got up there and said 'I can do this,'" Kassuelke said. "I just got the bunt down the line like I was supposed to do."

While the win raises MVL's record to 8-4 and, more importantly, 6-2 in the Tomahawk Conference, the Indians drop to 5-8, with five of their losses coming by just one run.

"I told the girls right after the game I was very proud of them, the way they battled," Sleepy Eye coach Tim Hoffmann said. "It was just a lot of little things. Now it's just a matter of keeping the team's spirits up and staying positive."



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"MVL started the scoring by manufacturing a couple of runs in the bottom of the first when Biedenbender led off the inning with a walk, stealing second, taking third on a passed ball, then coming home on Kretsch's grounder.

Mashaye Wilson walked, stole second and made it 2-0 on Emily Wessel's single to right. In the third, the Indians took advantage of Shelby Wells reaching on a dropped third strike, then reaching second on a throwing error after a sacrifice bunt attempt by Nicole Maher. Wells made it 2-1 two batters later on Leah Siefkes single to left.



Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Emily Wessel leaps to avoid the tag of Sleepy Eye third baseman Rachel Schroeder Thursday at MVL. Wessel was safe on the play. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Sleepy Eye took the lead in the fifth when Hilmer opened the inning hit by a pitch and scoring on a double to right by Sydney Remus.

Remus came home on a long double to left by Paige Walter, with an Amber Ness single scoring Walter to give the Indians a 4-2 lead.

In the Chargers' fifth, Biedenbender nailed a triple to right center with two out, then scored on a wild pitch. MVL tied it in the sixth when a Wessel single scored Wilson, who had singled earlier.

Remus then made a statement for the Indians when she hammered the first pitch Kretsch threw her over the right field fence for a homer and a 5-4 Indians margin.

Mikyla Weilage led off the MVL seventh with a single, then reached third when she kept running after a sacrifice bunt by Biedenbender where the throw to third was bobbled. Kassuelke's single to right scored Weilage and sent the game into extra innings.

Both teams had their chances in the extra stanzas, with the Chargers leaving runners stranded at third twice and the Indians leaving potential scores at second twice and third once. But with one out in the 11th, Biedenbender doubled to right, stole third then ended the affair on Kassuelke's squeeze bunt.

"It was tough for either team to lose it," MVL coach Julie Detjen said. "I'm just happy we made some clutch plays."

Remus pitched the first five innings for the Indians, then was relieved by Hilmer, who threw the remaining seven. For the Chargers, Biedenbender was 2-for-5 with a double and triple, Kassuelke was 2-for-5 with two runs batted in, Wilson was 3-for-4, as was Wessel. Remus was 3-for-5 with a homer, two doubles and two RBIs for the Indians.



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MVL swept by St. Mary's

POSTED: May 4, 2010 New Ulm Journal

St. Mary's 8, MVL; St. Mary's 7, MVL 4

SLEEPY EYE - Sleepy Eye St. Mary's swept Minnesota Valley Lutheran Monday in a Tomahawk Conference girls softball double-header.

Nevada Helget got the win in Game 1 going all seven innings, allowing one run on six hits with eight strikeouts. Megan Gilland went 3-for-4 with a triple and three RBIs.

Abby Kretsch got the loss going six innings, allowing eight runs on 11 hits with five walks. Andi Biedenbender 1-for-3 with a double.

In Game 2, Kahley Pelzel got the win going the distance, allowing four runs on eight hits with five strikeouts. Gilland went 2-for-4 with a triple.

Carli Maasz got the loss for MVL, going all seven innings, allowing seven runs on eight hits with four strikeouts. Kretsch went 2-for-4 with an RBI.



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Alec Fischer took the loss for MVL. He allowed four runs on three hits with a walk. Keith Besemer pitched four innings and allowed eight runs on nine hits with four walks and four strikeouts.

Sellner was 3-for-4 with three runs and two RBIs at the plate. Alan Huiras was 2-for-4 with an RBI and Keaton Borth had three RBIs.

Galen Holzhueter had a triple and an RBI. Zac Kroells also had an RBI for MVL.

MVL (5-7, 4-6) hosts Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop Thursday.

"We will be fine," Schoenherr said. "These guys always battle back. It doesn't matter the game before, they always forget that and they will be ready for the next one."

St. Mary's (8-3, 7-3) is at Buffalo Lake-Hector Thursday.

GFW 6, MVL 4

POSTED: May 7, 2010 New Ulm Journal

WINTHROP - The Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop softball team defeated Minnesota Valley Lutheran Thursday in a Tomahawk Conference matchup.

Rachael Schweiss was the winning pitcher for GFW going all seven innings with four strikeouts and giving up four runs, three hits and three walks.

Carlie Maasz took the loss, pitching the whole game for MVL. She had five strikeouts and allowed six runs, seven hits, and one walk.

The leading hitters for GFW were Jamie Katzenmeyer who went 3-for-3 with a single, triple, and home run. Whitney Vorwerk went 2-for-3.

MVL's Abby Kretsch went 1-for-2 with a double.

GFW improves to 10-2 overall and in the Tomahawk Conference.



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Chargers split with Rockets

By Dave Clark, Journal Sports Writer New Ulm Journal

POSTED: May 14, 2010

NEW ULM - Splitting a doubleheader is sometimes like looking at a mirror image.

Consider: In the first game, the Comfrey/Cedar Mountain Rockets softball team beat the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers 8-6 while banging out 12 hits and taking advantage of some baserunning gaffes by the Chargers. MVL won the nightcap 11-3 by nailing 14 hits and reaching base on three Rockets fielding errors.

"We usually have a solid first game," Rockets coach Jamie Berner said. "But we couldn't find the hits in the second and the MVL hitters started getting their timing down. We had good, heads-up baserunning in the first game, something we haven't always had this year, so that was nice to see."

"We had too many mental errors in the first game," Chargers coach Julie Detjen said. "But we started getting to [CM/C pitcher Laura] Carnell late in the first game and we were able to carry it to the second game."

One thing that had no problem carrying in the first game was the home run MVL's Andrea Biedenbender smashed over the right field fence to start the game off for the Chargers in the bottom of the first inning.

MVL didn't hold the lead long, as the Rockets came back in the top of the second to score two on a double down the first base line by Katelyn Christensen that brought home Jaime Hanson, followed by a RBI single from Taylor Spotted Bear.

CM/C made it 4-1 in the third without a hit. Ashley Schumacher and Corrie Tews scored with walks, a double steal, wild pitch and a dropped third strike that allowed Tews to come in on the throw to first.

After MVL scored again in the fourth, it appeared the Rockets broke the game open with a four spot in the sixth. Angela Gewerth doubled to deep center, then came home later on a passed ball. A couple of wild pitches allowed two more runs, with a Spotted Bear bloop single scored Christensen to put CM/C up 8-2.

The Chargers scored four more in their final two at-bats, with most of the damage done with RBI singles from Emily Wessel, Mindy Sommer and Kayleigh Kassuelke, plus a wild throw on a pickoff attempt that let Mashaye Wilson cross the plate.

Carnell pitched all seven innings for the victory, striking out 10, while walking one and giving up nine hits. Amanda Hillesheim started the second game for the Rockets, while Carlie Maasz went for the Chargers after watching Abby Kretsch take the loss in the opener.

MVL drew first blood again, this time in the second on a run scoring single by Biedenbender. The Chargers made it 3-0 in the top of the third, when Wilson opened with a single and scored on a Kassuelke double to the center field fence. Kassuelke then scored on a throwing error on a Katelyn Stark grounder.



Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Andrea Biedenbender (1) is congratulated by her teammates after she hit a lead-off home run in the first game of a doubleheader against Comfrey/Cedar Mountain Thursday at MVL. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com



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After Hillesheim walked the bases loaded to open the fourth, Carnell was called back to the mound. But singles by Kassuelke and Sommer scored four runs, and suddenly MVL held a 7-0 margin.

The Rockets made it 7-2 with single runs in the next two innings, but the Chargers recouped those scores when singles by Sommer and Jenna Birr resulted in runs after a Wessel double to right.

Up 9-3, the Chargers finished the evening's scoring with two more in their final at bat, the result of a triple from Wilson, followed by doubles from Kassuelke and Stark.

Maasz pitched a complete game, giving up just four hits while whiffing 10 and walking none. Biedenbender was 3-for-5 overall, plus four walks and two RBIs, while Sommer was 5-for-8 with four RBIs.

MVL 9, BLH 8

POSTED MAY 14, 2010 New Ulm Journal

BUFFALO LAKE - Minnesota Valley Lutheran defeated Buffalo Lake-Hector in Tomahawk Conference softball action Friday.

Brittany Lade took the loss for BLH. She gave up eight hits, six runs, she walked two and struck out one.

Carlie Maasz pitched 6 1/3 innings, allowing three runs and two hits. She struck out three and walked two to earn the win.

Emily Wessel was 4-for-4 with two runs and four RBIs for the Chargers and Mashaye Wilson was 2-for-3 with three runs.

Morgan Dobberstein, Steph Harrell and Jessie Kalenberg all were 1-for-3 and Dobberstein had two RBIs for the Mustangs

Greyhounds win rivalry game

By Michael Gasset, Journal Sports Writer
POSTED May 18, 2010 New Ulm Journal

NEW ULM - New Ulm Cathedral starter Kasey Bode said it's much easier to pitch with a lead.

After leaving a pair of runners on base in the top of the first inning, the Greyhounds gave Bode all the run support she needed in the top of the second.

Cathedral scored six runs in that second inning as it swept cross-town rival Minnesota Valley Lutheran in the season series with a 7-0 victory Monday.

"It's a lot easier," Bode said. "Our defense works really hard and I feel really comfortable having them behind me."

In that second inning, the Greyhounds sent 10 batters to the plate but were helped by two costly MVL errors.



Staff photo by Mary Roufs
New Ulm Cathedral's Britney Sellner slides into home plate as Minnesota Valley Lutheran catcher Mikyla Weilage attempts the tag. Sellner was safe on the play.



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Kari Berg and Amy Eckstein reached on errors to lead off the inning and Paige Pautzke reached on a bloop single between pitcher and third that scored Berg.

Lisa Helget followed with a bases-clearing double to left to make it 4-0. Taylor Moldan and Hailie Kuelbs both singled and scored to put Cathedral up 6-0.

That was really all the offense the Greyhounds got. They had just one base runner over the next three innings until getting the final run across in the seventh to make the final score 7-0.

"We had physical and mental errors that second inning and that last run shouldn't have happened either," MVL coach Julie Detjen said. "If we could just erase that one inning it would be great. We got people on base but we just couldn't sneak them in today.

The Chargers had their chances to stay in the game. They left runners at second and third in the fourth and bases loaded in the fifth.

Abbie Kretsch took the loss for MVL She allowed six runs on seven hits with a strikeout and two walks.

Emily Wessel and Mashaye Wilson each had two hits for the Chargers.

Bode picked up the win as she pitched five innings and allowed three hits with three strikeouts and three walks.

Ali Brey pitched the final two innings and allowed a hit and struck out three.

Cathedral (16-3, 14-1) closes out the regular season at home against Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop today. The Section 2A seedings come out Wednesday and Cathedral should be the top seed when the playoffs start next week.

"We feel we are set and ready to go," Bode said. "We are ready for the playoffs to get started."

MVL (10-9, 8-7) closes out the regular season at home against Wabasso Thursday.

"I want to finish strong with the conference season," Detjen said. "We just need to refocus, we can't be down after this one, we just need to focus on Wabasso then get ready for the playoffs."

Hot bats lift Rabbits

POSTED May 21, 2010 New Ulm Journal

Dustin Briggs, Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - It was the last game of the regular season for both the Wabasso and Minnesota Valley Lutheran softball teams Thursday.

With similar standings overall and in the Tomahawk Conference, both teams were looking for a win to make a statement going into the playoffs, but Wabasso ended up on top with a score of 11-5 after an unstoppable eight-run rally in the sixth inning.

MVL started off strong when catcher Kayleigh Kassuelke hit a two-run home run over the fence in left field in the bottom of



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the first. But Wabasso answered back in the second when it tied the But Wabasso answered back in the second when it tied the score 2-2 after a run scored off a passed ball and an RBI single by Kimberly Frank.

In the third, MVL's Mikyla Weilage hit an RBI double to break the tie. But, again, Wabasso answered back in the fourth when Frank hit an RBI single.

The score remained tied at 3-3 until the sixth inning when Wabasso's bats got hot. Morgan Samyn started the rally with a base hit for two RBIs.

Paige Pistulka kept it going with another base hit for two RBIs, and Frank had her third hit of the game. She finished 3-for-3.

With the score at 11-3, MVL made a strong effort to rally back in the seventh when Kassuelke had a two-run single to make it 11-5. But that was as close as the Chargers got.

Wabasso's Desi Kramer pitched the entire game for the win allowing five runs with three strikeouts, 13 hits, and four walks.

MVL's Carlie Maasz took the loss after pitching all seven innings with 11 runs, three strikeouts, 11 hits, and five walks.

"Tonight we had a lot of great hits but just couldn't get the placement," MVL coach Julie Detjen said. "Now we will shake this game off and begin to get ready for the playoffs."

The leading hitters for the Chargers were Abby Kretch who went 2-for-4, Kassuelke had four RBIs on two base hits, and Weilage went 2-for-4 including an RBI double.

Wabasso's Pistulka went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and Samyn went 1-for-2 with two RBIs.

Wabasso improves to 10-9 overall and 9-7 in the Tomahawk Conference going into the first round of the playoffs Tuesday where the Rabbits will host Tracy-Milroy-Balaton.

MVL is now 10-10 overall and finished 8-8 in the conference and is the No. 5 seed in the Section 2A, North Subsection playoffs. The Chargers play at No. 4 Sleepy Eye St. Mary's Tuesday in the first round of the playoffs.



Staff photo by Mary Roufs
Minnesota Valley Lutheran catcher Kayleigh Kassuelke attempts a tag at home on a Wabasso opponent during the top of the six inning at MVL in New Ulm on Thursday afternoon. For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com



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St. Mary's stops Chargers

POSTED May 26, 2010

SLEEPY EYE - Third time's a charm.

The Sleepy Eye St. Mary's Knights beat the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers for the third time this season, a 6-5 victory Tuesday in the opening round of the Section 2A, North Division softball tournament.

The win means the 12-9 Knights advance to play New Ulm Cathedral at 11 a.m. Saturday at Caswell Park in North Mankato. The Chargers season is over, ending the season at 10-11.

It was an exciting game, but not a perfectly played contest, with both teams struggling with aspects of the game. The Knights had four errors, but had the key hits, while the Chargers had trouble with walks, wild pitches and passed balls in a five-run St. Mary's fourth inning.

"There were errors on both sides. We knew MVL was coming in ready to play," Knights coach Wendy Owens said. "They really hit the ball. But we stayed disciplined in the batters box and got a couple of key hits and you need to do those types of things in playoff softball."

"We played better than we did in our doubleheader loss to them," MVL coach Julie Detjen said. "It was nice to jump out to a lead, but we just came up short."

Mashaye Wilson started things off for the Chargers in the top of the second by lining the first pitch from Nevada Helget to right. After stealing second and going to third on an error on Mindy Sommer's grounder, Wilson scored when Sommer broke for second. A Carlie Maasz single to center then gave MVL a 2-0 lead.

The Knights made it 2-1 in the third on two Chargers errors and two grounders. But it was the St. Mary's fourth that sealed the deal for the Knights.

Kailey Seifert led off with a single to center. With pinch runner Jenna Hose on first, Megan Gilliland and Helget walked to load the bases. Host then scored on a passed ball to knot the game at 2-2. Molly Moldan walked to reload the bases, then Gilliland gave St. Mary's the lead by coming home on a wild pitch.

Chelsi Kuebler took ball four to fill the bases for the third time in the inning. A Kahley Pelzel fly to center brought home Helget to make it 4-2. The runners advanced on another passed ball and Kelsey Sellner followed with a single to center to plate Moldan and Kuebler, putting the score at 6-2.

The Chargers fought back in the top of the fifth as Andrea Biedenbender and Emily Wessel started the inning off with base hits. Biedenbender scored when Wessel broke for and stole second, with Wilson then lining a triple down the third base line to make it 6-4. Kayleigh Kassuelke's grounder brought Wilson home for the final run of the game.

Helget pitched a complete game, with three strikeouts and no walks. Seifert was 2-for-3, while Sellner had two runs batted in. For the Chargers, Wessel and Jenna Birr were both 2-for-3.



Staff Photo by Mary Roufs
Sleepy Eye St. Mary's Molly Moldan reaches base before Minnesota Valley Lutheran third baseman Andrea Biedenbender makes the catch during the Section 2A, North Subsection softball game at Sleepy Eye on Tuesday.