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2011 Western Mass. Softball Division II - Round 1 - Game 4 - Softball

Drury vs. Hampshire - Game Preview & News

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Drury
 (12-9-0)

2

6/2/2011
 4:30 p.m.

Hampshire
 (17-2-0)

9

Hampshire Regional High School, Westhampton, MA

Hampshire defeats Drury, 9-2 in Division II softball quarterfinals

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Fran Sypek, June 02, 2011 8:19 p.m.

Not everyone can adapt to being a designated hitter.

Fortunately for Hampshire Regional, Janelle Gorman has not only embraced the role, she is thriving at it.

Gorman smashed a two-run home run Thursday to power Hampshire Regional to a 9-2 victory over visiting Drury in a Western Massachusetts Division II quarterfinal game in Westhampton.

Hampshire (17-2), advanced to the semifinals and will play the survivor of Friday's Belchertown at Palmer game.

When her teammates are in the field, Gorman is very vocal on the bench, cheering them on. She can also be seen wearing her batting helmet and swinging a weighted bat.

"Just hitting, gives me a chance to focus on just hitting," Gorman said. "When the team's playing defense, it's easy for me to cheer because I have to focus on only one thing."

Whatever she does, it has worked. Gorman is having a tremendous season.

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But she's hardly alone. The Red Raiders have potent lineup.

"It's been nice to see the bottom of our order getting big hits," coach Brian McGan said.

Among the many players making big contributions is freshman Bri Wetlich. She had four hits, including a two-run home run in the sixth inning.

Bri Mousette, who is hitting over .550 this season, had a single, double and three RBIs.

Ashlee McGan struck out seven in seven innings. She escaped a bases-loaded jam and close out the jam with one run scored by the Blue Devils.

"When Ashlee kept her ball down, she did her job," coach McGan said. ""She pitched well."

There was a comfort zone after the big home runs by Gorman and Wetlich.

"Those home runs really sparked us," coach McGan said. "Our whole lineup is hitting well."

For Hampshire, it's all about preparation.

"We work hard in practice and it's starting to pay off," coach McGan said.

Gorman can usually tell what kind of day she may have during pre-game soft toss.

"When I do bad at soft toss, I feel like I do better in the game," Gorman said.

Hitting is contagious for the Red Raiders. The quickly erased a 1-0 deficit with a four-run second inning.

"Usually, when we start hitting, we keep hitting," Gorman said. "We just need to get started."

The Red Raiders are now only a win away from returning to the University of Massachusetts to play for a championship.

"The last time we won (in 2009), I was just a pinch hitter," Gorman said. "Now, I feel much more part of the team and winning would mean so much more to me."

Now freshman like Wetlich and eighth grader Savannah Waters, the starting shortstop, can step in and play key roles.

"We have a strong youth program and being a regional school, we can stick kids into the mix and keep things going."

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WMass Scoreboard

06/02 at 7 p.m. Boys Volleyball	1st
Chicopee Comp (L) @	2 nd
Agawam (W)	2 nd
Preview Box Score Recap	
06/02 at 4 p.m. Softball	1 2
McCann Tech (L) @	- -
Mt. Everett (W)	- -
Box Score Recap	
06/04 at 6 p.m. Baseball	1 2
Minnechaug @	- -
Amherst	- -
Box Score	
06/03 at 3:30 p.m. Girls Tennis	1st