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2011 Western Mass. Softball - Division I - Round 3 - Game 2 - Softball

East Longmeadow vs. Agawam - Game Preview & News

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East Longmeadow
(16-6-0)

0

6/7/2011
3 p.m.

Agawam
(17-4-0)

3

Elms College, Chicopee, MA

Agawam blanks East Longmeadow 3-0 in Division I softball semifinal

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Fran Sypek, June 07, 2011 8:18 p.m.

CHICOPEE – Surgery can wait.

Danielle Circosta has something more important to do before she lets the doctor surgically repair her right wrist.

For the first time in her career, Circosta will pitch in a Western Massachusetts Division I softball final after she fired a tidy, four-hit shutout Tuesday to spark second-seeded Agawam to a 3-0 semifinal victory over No. 3 East Longmeadow at Elms College's Cheryl R. Condon Field.

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Agawam (18-4) is back in the final for the first time since it won the championship in 2004. The Brownies will face Amherst at 5 p.m. Saturday at the University of Massachusetts softball complex.

Agawam had to shut Circosta down for the rest of the regular season in mid-May after a 3-2 loss to Amherst, a team it had beaten 2-0 earlier this season. She spent a week in a cast for what doctors think is Triangular Fibrocartilage Complex (TFC) before she was cleared to resume pitching. She got a one-inning tune-up in Agawam's quarterfinal win over Minnechaug Regional last Saturday.

"You could tell she was hurting a little bit and it definitely took a lot of courage," sophomore catcher Reilly Wieners said. "She may not have had her best stuff, but she hit her spots and she was consistent."

Circosta set the tone for the game by striking out the side in the first inning. That set the stage for a three-run bottom half that gave Circosta all the support she would need.

"Danielle was headstrong today," Agawam coach Kathy Georgina said. "She was focused, in control and she never got rattled."

Chalk that up to being tourney-tested.

"This was her third time starting in the semis and her experience helped," Georgina said. "She's close to 100 percent. She's rested it and done her exercises."

And that was Circosta's mission from the beginning.

"I wouldn't miss this for the world," Circosta said. "Our team mends so well together and there's never any tension between any of us."

Talk about someone who doesn't have time for the pain.

"It's not very painful now," said Circosta, who had her right wrist taped. "I've just got to work through it."

East Longmeadow just couldn't solve her. Danielle White had two of the Spartans' four hits.

East Longmeadow (16-6) had a remarkable season. The Spartans have come a long way from the team that was beaten 17-0 by Agawam during the regular season.

Agawam took advantage of three East Longmeadow errors to score its runs in the first inning.

Sparkplug leadoff hitter Maurisa Ollari laced a double to center and scored on an infield error that allowed Paige Circosta to reach base. Wieners again came through in the clutch with an RBI single to make it 2-0.

Another infield error allowed Wieners to score the third run.

After that, East Longmeadow pitcher Madison Grande settled down and blanked the Brownies over the next five innings. In the fourth inning, Jess Ushman singled and Faith Rheault reached on an error, but Grande got three straight ground-ball outs to escape the jam

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Box Score			
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Mount Greylock @	-	-	
Palmer	-	-	
Box Score			
06/08 at 7 p.m. Baseball	1	2	