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2011 Western Mass. Softball Division II - Round 2 - Game 2 - Softball

Hampshire vs. Palmer - Game Preview & News

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Hampshire
(17-2-0)
8

6/9/2011
5 p.m.

Palmer
(17-4-0)
8

Elms College, Chicopee, MA

Division II softball semifinal between Hampshire and Palmer to be continued

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Pam McCray, June 08, 2011 8:24 p.m.

CHICOPEE - Wednesday's Division II softball semifinal between No. 2 Hampshire Regional High School and No. 3 Palmer wasn't your everyday softball game.

After a sixth inning scare and lightning in the seventh, the game was called and will resume tomorrow after the conclusion of the 3:00 Division III semifinal between Mt. Everett and Ware.

The game was stopped with a score of 8-8 in the bottom of the seventh. Hampshire was up to bat with two runners on and one out.

Hampshire pitcher Ashlee McGan went six innings with five strikeouts before being taken off the field in an ambulance. In the bottom of the sixth, trainers were called into the dugout as the blazing heat finally got to be too much. McGan was taken out on a stretcher.

"She was dizzy and wasn't feeling very well," Hampshire assistant coach Rich Mousette said. "As far as we know she's doing okay. The team was shaken."

The Hampshire defense was shaky in the first inning and two throwing errors resulted in runs for the Panthers. Alisha Reynolds belted an RBI double with

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one out in the first inning, scoring Kristen Oliveira for the Panthers third run.

McGan settled down in the second inning, sitting down three straight batters.
The Red Raiders got out of the inning on a ground ball to third baseman Megan Hurley.

Hurley got things started in the second with a deep double to left center field. Lauren Walker loaded up the bases after a line drive up the middle, hitting Palmer pitcher Nicole Handzel's leg.

Hurley scored Hampshire's first run off a wild pitch and Kayla Croteau knocked in another run on a line drive to center field to bring the Red Raiders within one run.

Bri Mousette advanced Savannah Waters to third on a hard hit single to centerfield. Janelle Gorman was thrown out at first, but on the throw, Waters quickly slid into home to tie it up.

McGan helped her own cause in the third, driving in the go-ahead run on a two-out double. Hampshire (17-2) took the 4-3 lead.

McGan started the fourth with a strikeout and some great defensive action to end the inning. Walker made a grab almost over her head just before the fence in center field for the second out. The shortstop Waters, ended the inning on the run, throwing out Palmer's Heather Strong.

Palmer (17-4) threatened in the fifth inning with runners on first and third and no outs. McGan fanned the next batter but Nicole Prosperi dropped a ball in shallow left field to drive in the tying run.

The Panthers scored two more times in the inning, once on a passed ball to take a 6-4 lead.

The Hampshire bats came alive scoring four times in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game up at 8-8. The Red Raiders looked to have something going in the bottom of the seventh with two runners on and one out, but they'll have to wait one more day to see if they get a rematch of the 2010 championship game with Wahconah.

"Given another day I hope our girls come in a little more unnerved," Mousette said. "Just them getting a feeling Ashlee's doing better will make them relax a little bit more."

The winner of Thursday's continuation will take on Wahconah in the Division II Championship on Saturday at 2:30 the UMass.

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