

BRUINS

FROM PAGE B1

relying on solid play from her defensive mates.

Watkins was at her best in the top of the sixth inning when the Trojans threatened to tie or take the lead.

North Hardin's Mad-die Spraggins led off the inning with a liner up the middle that was nearly snagged on a great diving effort by shortstop Payton Linder.

Kaylee Johnston fol-lowed with a one-hop bul-let that took a wicked hop and appeared to sail over the head of third baseman Kendall Snodgrass. But Snodgrass soared, snared the ball and threw to first for the out.

"That was a very big defensive play," Cen-tral Hardin coach Jamie Goodman said. "When it was hit, I thought for sure it was over her head, but it's good to be tall. That play was definitely a game-changer."

Carmickle walked and her sister, Cheyanne Carmickle, followed with an infield single to load the bases with one out.

But Watkins was equal to the task. With Vinton at the plate facing a 1-2



DAN TOWNSEND/For The News-Enterprise

North Hardin's Kaylee Johnston hits a double Monday night, one of only five hits by the Trojans against Central Hardin, at the Elizabethtown Sports Park.

count, Watkins froze the batter with a low offspeed pitch for the strikeout. Watkins got TyKeria Davis to fly to deep center field to end the threat.

"They lit a fire under me," Watkins said of the two runs. "I've always said to my girls, all I need is one run to win. They got me two runs tonight. So I had to be there for them like they were there from me."

Despite surrendering a first-inning run that appeared as if it might hold, Watkins was in the moment for seven innings.

She gave up a leadoff double to Jacie Cain, who would get a one-out steal and score on a sacrifice fly by Brooklyn Carmickle for the 1-0 lead.

But Watkins limited the

Trojans to three hits and two walks over the final six innings.

In the third inning, she stranded Johnston at third by fanning Brooklyn Carmickle on a 3-2 count. She recorded two strikeouts each in the fourth and fifth innings, survived the nerve-wracking sixth, and worked around a one-out

single by Carley Everhart in the seventh by coaxing two groundouts.

"I rolled my ankle a couple of weekends ago and since then I've been a little wonky and haven't really been on my A game," Watkins said. "Tonight, I felt I was getting back to the old me. I was putting my pitch-ers where I wanted and relying on my defense."

For North Hardin coach Rocco Adessa, a possible victory slipped away.

After beating a top-25 ranked LaRue County squad 3-0 the week prior, the Trojans had a shot at another quality opponent, one they haven't beaten in 15 years.

"This was our game to lose," Adessa said. "I thought our pitching and fielding were great and we hit the ball well. It just came down to some of the little things. We had too many passed balls ... and with the bases loaded and one out, you have to seize upon that against really good teams because they won't give you many more chances."

Despite the loss, Adessa likes the way his team is playing. He said he

told his girls he couldn't remember the last time North Hardin played Central Hardin to a one-run game — it was a 5-4 loss on March 31, 2015.

"We still have other district games to play, but after walking away from this game tonight we could technically be the best team in the district," Adessa said. "We are starting to find that North Hardin tradition again, and if we play Trojan softball, we are going to be tough to beat."

Watkins ran her record to 3-0 on the season.

Carmickle fell to 11-4. She finished with 11 strikeouts to up her season total to 193.

Jake Klinec can be reached at 270-505-1425 or jklinec@thenewsenterprise.com.

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This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

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