

Boyle County baserunner Lilly Turner and Garrard County third baseman Destiny Logan watch to see whether a ground ball will be fair or foul during the fifth inning of the Lady Rebels' win over Garrard County on Thursday. (Photo by Mike Marsee)

# Key district win sparks Boyle softball team

BY MIKE MARSEE  
Contributing Writer

A single game in the middle of a long season might not mean very much – unless you really need it.

The Boyle County softball team was in need of a good night after a slow start, and the Lady Rebels found what they were looking for in the form of a come-back win over an old rival.

They battled from behind Thursday for a 5-2 victory over Garrard County that gave birth to a winning streak and gave the Lady Rebels reason to believe things might start to break their way.

“We knew that we could come in tonight and win this game, so we just did what we were supposed to do, did our job,” right fielder Cannon said. “It shows us that we really can work as a team and move on through adversity and win the game.”

Cannon is one of five seniors on a young Boyle team that took its lumps over the first month of the season, and coach Brian Deem said this was exactly the sort of win they needed.

“My kids have been battling so hard through a lot of adversity,” Deem said. “We’ve just been in a rut, just kind of spinning our wheels. We’ve been hitting the ball fairly well, we’ve just not been able to get W’s, and that takes a toll on your emotions and your psyche. And I’m proud of my kids being able to fight through that and respond.”

Deem said the win, Boyle’s 24th consecutive victory against a 45th District opponent, was made more significant by the fact that his team had to come from behind after Garrard took a 2-0 lead in the third inning.

“I was watching, and I could tell they had the look on their faces like, ‘Here it comes again,’” he said. “And we just needed a spark. We needed a big spark, and Catherine Lemonds came through with a big hit and then Addie Cannon did and then we were able to start getting some good base hits and generating some runs.”

Then the runs kept coming, and so did the wins. The Lady Rebels routed Grayson County 12-0 and John Hardin 15-1 in a three-team round-robin Saturday at John Hardin – they had scored in double figures in only one previous game – to build a season-best three-game winning streak.

“We’ve really been needing to work as a team, and we’ve finally started connect-

ing our strengths and working as a team to fix our errors,” Cannon said.

It had been tough sledding for Boyle to that point, but the Lady Rebels’ struggles came against a typically tough schedule.

They have played three teams that were ranked in the most recent statewide top 25, and they lost those three games by a combined score of 31-17.

Entering this week, there were four more games against currently ranked teams ahead, including Monday at No. 20 Madison Central and Thursday at No. 12 North Laurel. Boyle will also host defending 12th Region champion Mercer County on Tuesday.

“We’ve got a brutal week. We’ve just got to find a way to embrace the challenge,” Deem said.

The Lady Rebels did that Thursday after Garrard went up 2-0 on Emily Hounshell’s solo home run in the third inning.

They scored three unearned runs with two outs in the fourth inning thanks to consecutive hits by Russell, Ashlen Young and Abby Peavler. Miley Finley singled home a run in the fifth and Cannon added one more with a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

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Miley Finley, the Lady Rebels’ leading hitter with a .444 average and seven extra-base hits through Thursday, singled home a run in the fifth and Cannon added one more with a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

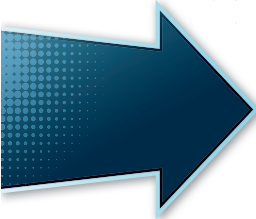
Boyle got seven hits in all from seven different players, and Peavler struck out 15 batters without a walk and allowed only four hits as she pitched a complete game.

The Lady Rebels are inexperienced at a number of positions and they’ve had a couple of players out of the lineup with injuries recently. But Deem said their athleticism is an asset and he’s confident the timely hits will come.

“We’ve got to continue to hit the ball and get people on base, and I think if we do that the two-out base hits will come,” he said. “We’re playing for each other, and if we stay the course and fight through the adversity, I think it will pay off in May.”



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