

Lady Pack falls to North Cobb

By Wayne Grandy
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MOULTRIE — The Colquitt County softball team nearly dug its way out of a four-run first-inning deficit against North Cobb on Saturday at Packer Park, but mental errors again cost the Lady Packers.

Colquitt rallied to score four runs in the bottom of the fifth to pull to within two runs.

But then, with runners on second and third and one out in the fifth, two base-running decisions on a bloop single to short center field led to a double play to end the inning.

"I was proud of the way we battled back and made it a game," Colquitt County coach Jake Mobley said. "But mental mistakes are killing us."

"We just ran ourselves out of that inning."

The loss was the second in a row for the Lady Packers, who fall to 4-3.

North Cobb, coached by former Colquitt County and University of Georgia basketball player Jo Beth Weaver, made it a sweep when it defeated Lowndes 6-3 in Saturday's second game.

The Lady Warriors, who de-



feated Hillgrove 2-0 on Thursday in their season- and region-opener, are now 3-0.

Weaver said the four-run first-inning set the tone for the rest of the day. Bryanna Vazquez opened the game with a triple to left field and scored on a single by Iman Muhammad.

After Muhammad stole second, Casey Page sacrificed her to third and Kayla Trumbull followed with a run-scoring single.

Third baseman Taylor Krause finished off the first inning scoring with a home run over the fence in right center field.

The Lady Packers got on the board in the bottom of the second when Diana Durham reached on an infield single, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on an error.

North Cobb extended its lead with three runs in the fourth inning, courtesy of a walk, an infield throwing error and singles by Olivia Mould, Muhammad and Page.

Colquitt scored in the bottom of the inning when Amber Kling doubled in Durham, who had reach on an error.

After North Cobb scored on a

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PACK TOPS COFFEE, PREPARES FOR MILL CREEK

JV Lady

best of him. When he came around that turn and spotted a young driver with the gall to shake a fist at him, he made

Now, it's time to confront the truth. Smoke, tell us what happened.

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Softball

run on a wild pitch to go up 8-2 in the top of the fifth, Colquitt scored four times in the bottom of the inning, the final three coming on two-out hits.

Reagan Goforth opened the frame with a single to left and after stealing second went to third on Madison Robinson's base hit.

One out later, Christin Hunnicutt's single to center scored Goforth.

Robinson and Hunnicutt remained aboard when Cheyenne Tillman grounded out.

But Durham got the first two-out hit, a double to left to score both runners.

Kling followed with a line-drive single to right to score Durham and pull the Lady Packers to within two.

North Cobb scored its final run on Page's sacrifice fly in the top of the sixth.

The bottom of the sixth started well when Christy Crosby drew a walk, Goforth reached on an infield single and Robinson sacrificed the runners to second and third.

Paris Sumner followed with a bloop single to shallow center field.

After the throw went to the plate, Crosby was caught in a rundown and tagged out and Sumner was thrown out trying to advance to second to end the inning.

Some of the frustration might have caught up to Mobley, who was ejected by the first base umpire in the top of the seventh inning after arguing several calls.

"There's no excuse for me to let that happen," said Mobley, who will have to miss the next two games.

"It's not acceptable for the players and

it's not acceptable for me."

Assistant coach Ryan Strickland ran the team after Mobley was tossed and will likely do so again when the Colquitt County plays Archer and Heritage on Friday at Kennesaw Mountain.

The Colquitt girls will play three tournament games on Friday at Kennesaw Mountain and also will play Harrison and South Paulding at Harrison High on Saturday.

The Lady Packers are about a quarter of the way through their season and have made it difficult to reach their goal of 20 wins, Mobley said.

"We've done a good job of getting runners in position to score," he said. "Clutch hitting is killing us.

"We've just got to start finding ways to get a W."

Colquitt two hits each from Sumner, Hunnicutt, Durham, Kling and Goforth.

Robinson had the other.

"Eleven hits should be enough to win a softball game," Mobley said.

North Cobb had 12 hits, including three by Muhammad and two each by Vazquez, Trumbull, Krause and starting pitcher Taylor Mould.

The game marked the first time Weaver had brought her North Cobb team to Colquitt County.

The Colquitt County Sports Hall of Fame member has coached softball at the school for 20 years and has more than 400 career victories.

"It really was exciting to be playing at that beautiful park and seeing so many family and friends," Weaver said.

Johnson to end

BROOK

The finishes ble, especially come in success place at Day's Hampshire, ment to 14th followed by a Pocono and Glen.

This is Jim NASCAR's s Cup champi

"It has been a challenging year. "We started speed that w the speed ba luck left.

"So, we c as we're gett the way so w great races."

With three season, John the Chase fo but lately th had its shar latest setback when Johns qualifying a national Sp ing afterwar

Johnson this season in four race based on his peat isn't lo likely in Su