

Estill 8th Wins Conference Tourney

The Estill County Lady Engineers 7th and 8th grade fastpitch softball teams had high expectations after last year's 7th grade finished runner up in the tough Commonwealth Athletic Conference, playing against Rockcastle County and the Madison County teams.

But, most would hardly have expected both the 7th and 8th grade teams to have done as well as they have.

The season is winding down with just a handful of games left but the 7th grade has already won their conference and were runner-up in the tournament. They are presently 11-2 including the tournament loss.

The bats have been hot for both teams, and the 8th grade is still rolling with a 15-0 record after winning a tough league championship over Foley last week in Richmond, 6-3.

Estill's 8th came into the game as the regular season champion and were undefeated with many teams not even scoring against them, but Foley came in as a formidable opponent for the Lady Engineers.

Neither team scored in the first two innings although both threatened, but Foley took the lead 2-0 in the third inning. Estill got their chance and tied the game 2-2 then brought in another run to lead 3-2.

Foley tied in the 5th, 3-3, but Estill picked up three runs in the 5th to take the

lead for good, 6-3. Foley threatened in the 6th but Estill stopped them for the championship win.

The 8th grade team went to 14-0 with the Foley win. They secured the regular season conference championship as well as the conference championship

"These girls never cease to amaze me," says head coach Shayla Carroll. "If anything, this season has showcased the growth our players have made, on and off the field.

"When the game did not start off how we had planned, the girls were faced with a choice . . . either back down or step up.

"They definitely stepped up, proving how they won the right to be playing for a championship. I never once doubted their abilities, but I knew they had to be mentally ready to step it up a notch. As we always tell them... hitting is contagious! Once their bats got hot, their enthusiasm and attitudes were unstoppable!"

"I could brag all day," she adds. "They are not only phenomenal athletes, but wonderful students. They represent our school and community well. They are definitely a group to be watching in the coming years as we strive to continue the ECHS 14th region tradition!"

Congratulations and good luck, Estill Middle School Lady Engineers!



Estill 8th grade Lady Engineers Neesa West, Emma Winkle, Henlee Hunter, Katie Johnson and Lauren Farmer show off their championship trophy after winning the Commonwealth Athletic Conference tourney and regular season.

Lady Engineers Stay Hot With Six Straight

MIKE WISEMAN
Tribune Sportswriter

The Estill County Lady Engineers saw their season record jump to 13-5 after adding three wins over the past week and a total of six victories in a row. Two of last week's wins would be against District foes giving Estill yet another undefeated season in District play and the top seed in the 56th District Tournament.

Estill 11 Lincoln Co. 8

The Ladies would use an eight run second inning in this slugfest to pull out the win. Estill would total 15 hits for the game.

L. Wood- 3-4, K. Covey- 2-4, RBI, S. Wiseman- 1-3, 3 RBI, K. Riddell- 2-3, HR, 4 RBI, M. Hale- 3-3, T. Duechle- 1-3, RBI, E. Har-

dy- 2-4, RBI, A. Sparks- 1-3, K. Covey- 7IP, 13H, 8R, 6ER, 1BB, 9K.

Estill 17. Lee Co. 0

The Lady Engineers would make quick work in this one as they would only take four innings to demolish the Lady Kats.

L. Wood- 3-3, 2B, 4 RBI, S. Wiseman- 3-4, RBI, H. Adams- 1-1, M. Hale- 2-3, 2 RBI, L. Isfort- 2-4, 3 RBI, E. Hardy- 1-4, A. Sparks- 1-2, 2 RBI, K. Covey- 4IP, 2 H, 0 R, 0 BB, 8 K.

Estill 15 Owsley Co. 0

Estill would make even quicker work over the Lady Owls with Covey tossing a no hitter in Estill's final District game.

L. Wood- 1-2, HR, 2 RBI, K. Covey- 1-2, 2B, RBI, S. Wiseman- 3-3, 2B,

2 RBI, M. Hale- 1-1, 3 RBI, T. Duechle- 1-2, L. Isfort- 1-3, RBI, A. Sparks- 2-3, RBI, K. Covey- 3 IP, 0 H, 0ER, 2 BB, 6 K.

The Lady Engineers schedule is about to get a lot tougher this week as they take on some top rated teams not only in this area.

Estill will take on Boyle County on Tuesday night at home with action starting at 6pm. The rest of the week will see the Ladies take to the road; 5-8 @ Garrard Co., 5/10 @ East Jessamine, 5/11 @ Rowan County Triangle (vs. Rowan Co., vs. Lawrence Co.), 5/14 @ Montgomery Co., 5/15 vs Lafayette at Home. Come out and support the Lady Engineers Softball Team!!! GO BIG BLUE!!!



ABOVE: Henlee Hunter heads for 3rd base during Estill's championship game over Foley on Thursday in Richmond. BELOW: Third base Neesa West goes after a foul ball that could closeout the game for Estill.



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