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PREP NOTES

Ward puts up big numbers for Longhorns

Sawyer Ward is off to a crazy good start at the plate for Johnson County's baseball team.

The senior second baseman is hitting .514, going 19 for 37 with six doubles, two triples and three homers. And while those numbers are pretty good, Ward's eye-popping RBI total is what really stands out.

In 11 games, Ward has driven in 25 runs. That's an average of 2.3 runs batted in per game — and getting just two RBIs in any one contest is considered a standout effort.

Also, Ward's 25 RBIs are already five better than last year's team leader for the entire season.

In Monday's 4-1 win over Sullivan North, which was in first place in the Three Rivers Conference, Ward went 2 for 3 with two RBIs.

"He has worked hard for two years," said Longhorns' head coach Pete Pavusek. "He's in the cage all day."

Ward isn't a flash in the pan, either. Going back to the start of his junior season, Ward has a robust average of .427 with 30 hits in 117 at-bats.

The Longhorns (4-3, 8-3) haven't played a killer non-conference schedule. But with eight Three Rivers games remaining, Ward should have plenty of chances to continue his assault on league pitching.

And Pavusek said a college career isn't out of the question for Ward.

"I think he will make somebody a great second baseman," Pavusek said.

■ Unicoi County's softball team continued its impressive streak, running its record to 25-0 before the East Tennessee Classic was brought to a premature halt because of Saturday's stormy weather.

Because of the storm, the tournament was canceled and no winner was awarded.

The Lady Blue Devils have two games scheduled this week as they will travel to play Sullivan North today and Johnson County on Thursday. Both are Three Rivers Conference games, and the Blue Devils are 6-0 in league play to date.

■ Science Hill had an exclamation point put on its soccer schedule for April 18.

Tennessee High already had the Hilltoppers' attention with a good record. However, the Vikings (8-1) made a dramatic statement with a 1-0 win last week over previously unbeaten and No. 1-ranked Maryville.

Nathan Terrill's free kick was the only score of the game.

The Hilltoppers, who play host to Sullivan South today, are 8-2-1 on the season. They went 1-1-1 in a tournament over the weekend, beating Christ Presbyterian Academy and losing in the final minute to host team Chattanooga Christian.

Science Hill also had a scoreless tie against Knox Catholic.

The Hilltoppers can't afford to think about Tennessee High too soon, however. Sullivan South enters with a record of 7-1-1 on the season.

■ Signings update: Chelsey Weddie made her college choice official on Monday.

The Hampton senior basketball standout signed with Milligan College.

■ Baseball games of the week — (Today) David Crockett at Science Hill, Volunteer at Dobyns-Bennett, Tennessee High at Sullivan South, Sullivan North at Elizabethton, Sullivan East at Johnson County, (Thursday) Sullivan East at Sullivan South, (Friday) Jefferson County at Tennessee High, (Monday) Dobyns-Bennett at Tennessee High, Elizabethton at Sullivan East.

There are some important conference games on the schedule, most notably D-B's tilt with the Vikings.

Also, the Cyclones have a

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