

Baseball

# Pirates' morale riding high

*Head coach says team has 'fire in their eyes'*

**By Greg Ford**

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Spirits are running high on Wylie's baseball team.

This past week, the Pirates barely missed winning the March 4 district opener, falling 2-1 to Lovejoy. However, their resiliency was on display Friday, when they returned to the diamond and whipped non-

district foe Lakeview Centennial 10-5 at Wylie. They faced a strong Wylie East team on Tuesday and then travel Friday to Greenville. After that with come a Tuesday, March 18, home date with McKinney North.

"I see a fire in their eyes," said head coach Jonathan Cantu. "It's good that they're hungry. The young ones are hungry, and the seniors and juniors are taking them under their wing and they're leading them ... Those guys want to fight and I'm proud of them."

The coach added, "The pitchers are throwing strikes, and the hitters are doing good situation-

al hitting with runners in scoring position. That's one of the things we focused on this year was improving on was putting the ball in play with runners in scoring position and giving ourselves a chance."

Against Lovejoy, the Pirates faced some solid pitching, the coach noted, but the Pirates did have chances to score several runs. However, unlike Friday's games with the Patriots, they were unable to close the deal.

"We outhit them 5-4, but the thing was they weren't hits with runners in scoring position,"

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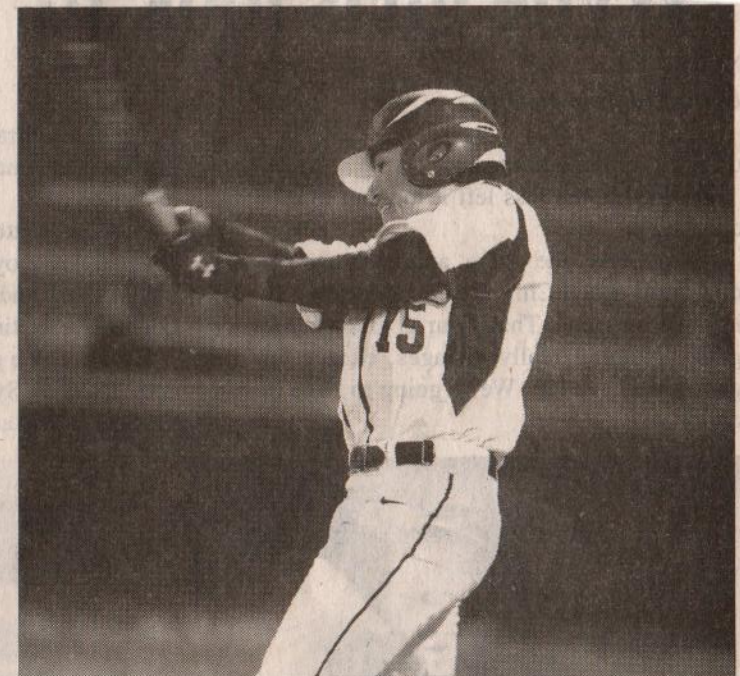


Photo by Oladipo Awowale

**Lorenzo Keck swings away during Wylie's 2-1 loss to Lovejoy on March 4. The Pirates rebounded on Friday to defeat Lakeview Centennial 10-5.**