

Baseball begins second-half play

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still make some young mistakes," Damron said. "They've got some fight in them. They are talented athletes, but it's not just that. They've got a will to win and a desire and hunger."

The Lady Pirates' district success has resulted primarily from strong hitting throughout the batting order. That was the case in the shutout over Wylie East and against Greenville, when Wylie scored a run during each stanza.

That included Serena Saldivar's two-run blast and triple, along with doubles from Brooke Dumas, Mackenzie Tano, Maleaha Ewing and Jessica Lee. Dumas, the winning pitcher in both games last week, had a homer and a double against Wylie East, with Katelyn Belch adding a double.

Defensively, the Lady Pirates were solid against Greenville, except for the top of the fourth, when they surrendered four runs with two outs already in the books, thanks to a pair of throwing errors.

That cut the Wylie lead to 9-5, but the Lady Pirates then shut out the Lady Lions over the next two innings, while at the same time putting enough

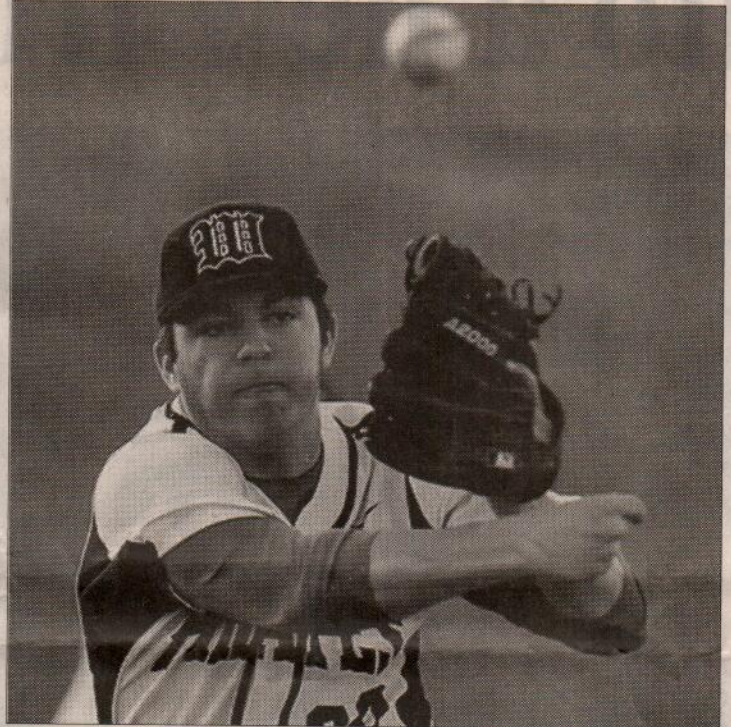


Photo by Oladipo Awowale

Wylie's Nick Dayton makes an off-balance throw to first.

runs across the plate to get a run rule.

"The defense is getting better," Damron said. "We had the one inning tonight. (Against Wylie East), we didn't have that one inning. We played perfect defense, so if we can continue to do that and put it altogether on both sides, we're going to do well."

She added, "I want us to continue to clean up on defense.

The bats are hot, and I think that will continue to happen. Even when we struggle with two or three of our kids, somebody else comes along and we find some ways to produce some runs. What I am looking for is to continue to clean up the defense."

Baseball

Wylie's Pirates fell to 2-6 in 13-4A following a 5-3 loss to Lovejoy last Friday. They hosted Wylie East on Tuesday and will do the same Friday for Greenville before hitting the road Tuesday, April 15, for McKinney North.

Meanwhile, the Wylie East Raiders are 7-1 in 13-4A following Friday's 8-1 triumph at Denison.

The Raiders, one of the top teams in the area, will play Friday at Sherman, travel Saturday to Sachse for a non-district clash and then host Greenville on Tuesday, April 15.