

Sports

George School softball reaches FSL championship game

By Rick Woelfel / Correspondent

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The Cougars easily dispatched Friends Central in a game shortened by the 10-run mercy rule and will now play for first title in 15 years.

MIDDLETOWN — For George School, the start of the Second Season looked like much of the first. Caitlyn Mihalik allowed just one infield hit and struck out nine Monday afternoon as the Cougars recorded a 10-0, four-and-a-half inning win over Friends Central in a Friends School League semifinal.

Top-seeded George School will face either Friends Select (at home) or the Academy of the New Church (at a neutral site) on Wednesday in a bid to win the school's first FSL softball title in 15 years. On Friday, the Cougars will travel to Notre Dame for the opening round of the Pennsylvania Independent Schools tournament.

Mihalik was in command from the first pitch on Monday. The sophomore right-hander had good velocity and moved the ball around the strike zone. It was her first outing as well as her team's since a regular-season ending loss to ANC last Tuesday.

"I felt like coming in I had to have more of a relaxed mindset," she said. "So just before the game I would think to myself about just staying relaxed, no matter what happens."

That thought process worked exceedingly well. Mihalik walked just one batter. Two others reached base on errors. The only hit the fourth-seeded Phoenix (5-8) managed came with one out in the top of the fifth when when Julia Doni grounded to second and beat the throw to first.

"She pitched great," said George School coach Terry Scullion. "She hit her spots, nothing down the middle, hit the corners. They didn't hit anything hard."

The Cougars gave their pitcher plenty of support. The hosts had to adjust to Eva Bartholomew's offspeed deliveries in the home half of the first but eventually scored three runs. Lexi Alloway singled in two of them and Jocelyn Labossiere drove in another. A sacrifice and an error brought home a run in the second before Annie Borovsky's double made it a 5-0 game.

The Cougars broke the game open in the fourth, scoring five times on just two hits. Bartholomew struggled with her command; she walked four batters in the inning and hit another before being lifted but Mackenzie Sheehan brought in a run with a single.

Mihalik went back to work in the top off the fifth and remained sharp. She noted that she's gained more self-confidence as the session has progressed.

"I definitely have more confidence," she said. "Just going through the season with my friends and my team supporting me, everyone supporting me. "There's definitely more confidence growing."

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