

Hudson throws no-no



Photo by Vincent Vala - Culpeper American 9-10 Softball All-Stars pitcher Jaylan Wormley gets out of the way after tagging Louisa's Michaela Cowell as she tries to score on a wild pitch Thursday in the championship game. Louisa won 11-0.
Published: July 2, 2010 in Star-Exponent, Culpepper, Va

No-hitters are pretty rare at any level, but three in a row is just unheard of.

Unless, of course, you're Louisa Little League All-Stars pitcher **Abbey Hudson**.

Hudson has yet to surrender a hit in three District 14 tournament games, according to Louisa manager Billy Bachelor, and on Thursday she led Louisa to a 11-0 victory over Culpeper American in the 9-10 softball championship game at the Culpeper Sports Complex.

"What she (Hudson) brings most is confidence," Bachelor said. "The other girls see her doing what she's doing and that makes them believe in themselves."

Hudson pitched a complete game in Thursday's finale without giving up a hit and racked up 10 strikeouts while giving up just two walks.

"She threw a lot harder than these girls are used to, so they were behind on their swings," Culpeper manager Amy Hoffman said. "But you still have to swing the bat to hit the ball."

The hard-throwing righty struck out the first seven batters in a row and only faced three hitters all night that she didn't strike out.

Hudson got it done from the batter's box as well. She snuck an RBI single down the third-base line in the third inning to give Louisa the 10-run lead needed to invoke the slaughter rule. She finished 1-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored.

Leadoff hitter Taylor Robinson led Louisa's offense, going 1-for-3 with two RBIs.

"This is my first year coaching, so it's kind of hard to explain how I feel," Bachelor said of winning the championship. "I'm just happy for the girls. I think they've had two days off in the last two weeks, and it has showed in these three games."

Culpeper American took the long road to the championship, and Hoffman said the toll the trek has taken was evident from her dugout as well.

"These girls have played five games in six days," she said. "They're worn out, but they fought to get here and they did their best."

Culpeper's pitching duo of Jaylan Wormley and Sydni Jenkins only gave up two hits and three earned runs between them, but a plethora of mistakes proved impossible to overcome.

Louisa scored five runs on wild pitches and three more on throwing errors, but that can't dampen Hoffman's pride in her team.

"These girls have worked very hard," she said. "They've pushed themselves. In every game and in every practice, they gave everything to us and that's all we can ask."

Wormley struck out five batters while giving up one hit, five walks and two earned runs in two innings of work. Jenkins pitched the final two innings, striking out two while giving up one hit, three walks and one earned run.