

DHS enjoys 'Sweet T'

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CHESTERFIELD - Just call her Miss Sweet "T." That is Dinwiddie freshman pitcher Taylor Thorpe.

After crushing a two-run homer off top-nosed Prince George in the top of the first, the General freshman stayed patient and poised on the mound as well.

No.4 Dinwiddie edged No.1 Prince George 4-2 in the first round of the Central District tournament on Tuesday at Matoaca High School.

"I just kept telling myself I'm gonna hit the ball, I'm gonna hit the ball," said an enthusiastic Thorpe. "Lauren is such a great pitcher that I wanted to have a better at bat. I was reacting to the strikes instead of just thinking about them. And then when I hit I was like yes, yes."

This is the first time that Dinwiddie has beat Prince George this season. The Royals have already clinched a first round and home game in the Central Region. But with the loss it gives the Generals the opportunity to earn the second spot from the district on Thursday.

"This just builds confidence for us and for upcoming years. You have to play this game relaxed and the girls did that today," said Dinwiddie coach Rick Beville who is in his third year. "Before the girls I told them you don't have to have the best pitcher or player you just have to your team play the best that they can and we did that."

Before Thorpe's homer over the left field wall, Kelsie Swenson led off the inning with a base hit.

For the next four innings, Thorpe dominated on the mound with her location of pitches and also the solid defense behind both in the infield and outfield.

"It felt great to get the win. I was so happy and proud of my teammates," Thorpe said. "I knew that they had my back. Plus I think that we all had better at bats that helped us."

Later in the third, Dinwiddie boosted its lead when Carly Winfield ripped an RBI double to right field bringing in Claire Owen.

Earlier in the inning, both Kali Kehler and Swenson picked up singles to center field.

"My job is to love them and their job is to love each other and tonight they played with each other," Beville said. "PG is very well coached. Coach [Pat] Waguespack does a great job of getting them prepared."

However, Prince George didn't give up without a fight as the Central District regular season champs cut the lead to 3-2.

With a lead off walk by Sarah Cook, two batters later Taylor Worley drilled an RBI triple to deep right to make the score 3-1. Then on a wild pitch, Worley ran home scoring the second run.

"I was definitely getting a little scared up there. But then I talked to Lori [Massengill, shortstop] and she calmed me down," Thorpe said. "She is my go-to girl. I can always count on her to make me laugh."

The conversation worked as Thorpe worked her way out of the inning and for the game.

In the top of the seventh inning, with a walk by Swenson, Winfield connected on her second biggest hit of the day with an RBI triple to deep right to seal the victory at 4-2.

"The girls came out and played loose and that's all you can ask for," Beville said.

Dinwiddie will face the No.2 seed Thomas Dale who defeated No.3 Matoaca 3-0 in the second game of the doubleheader in the district tournament. The Generals will face the Knights at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Matoaca High School.

DINWIDDIE 200 010 01 - 4 6 1

PRINCE GEORGE 000 020 0 - 2 4 0

WP: Thorpe and Kehler

LP: Vinson and Landreth