

Softball splits double header against EMU on a cold Saturday

By Patrick Childs
STAFF WRITER

The bitter cold didn't faze, and somehow didn't freeze the women's softball team on Saturday, March 29.

Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) came to town with an impressive, undefeated conference record and was looking to pounce on the Quakers. But the lady-Quakers were optimistic.

"Our coach told us to be mentally prepared for the game and to fight through the cold," said outfielder Sam Golley.

From the start, the Quakers filled the gaps with line drives and crowded the bases with runners.

After first-year Charissa Duncan scored off Kelly Guarnieri's fly ball to centerfield, junior Kelly Hale stepped to the plate.

Hale took a couple Babe Ruth-like warm-up swings as intimidation, and then looked for a pitch to blast. And she found it.

Mirroring the Babe's 1932 World Series home run, Hale's hit sailed over the centerfield wall for a two-run homerun and a 3-0 lead.

Slowly but surely the Royals made their way back into the

game, responding to the Quakers' productive first inning with a run of their own in both the second and third innings.

The next two innings, pitcher and sophomore DeNina Eldridge held EMU scoreless on three hits, but the Quakers too were unable to put together any runs.

Beginning the seventh inning, the game was tied at three.

Eldridge continued her solid outing on the mound, which included five strikeouts. The seventh would prove to be her finest.

"I just love to watch her play," said Coach Dennis Shores. "She is a great competitor and always gives you 110 percent."

Eldridge's heat was nearly untouchable. It was as if the first two batters were waiving car antennas at a marble. They both struck out swinging.

An EMU scoreless seventh inning gave the Quakers the right-of-way to victory.

In the bottom of the inning, Guarnieri started a one-out rally with a ground ball base hit. First-year Ami Hutcherson followed with a walk, which left the game in the hands of Sam Golley.

Failing to reach base on her previous at bats, Golley stepped up

to the plate looking for redemption.

First, she looked at ball one. "Well they changed the pitcher," Golley said. "So I went up there with an open mind knowing that anything can happen."

Quickly Golley found herself in a hole, with a 1-2 count.

EMU pitcher Natasha Viafora thought she had Golley right where she wanted her, but Golley didn't panic.

One swing of the bat left Viafora watching and the outfield running.

With Hutcherson on second, Coach Shores didn't hesitate to wave her home for the winning run.

Golley's RBI (run batted in) gave the Quakers the victory.

"I was happy that I could come through for the team," Golley said. "I was just excited that we won the game."

The second game of the double header didn't favor the Quakers as they lost 8-7 in extra innings. But other teams should consider Saturday's games a message.

"When we play our game we can compete with anyone," Shores said. "It's just discipline in the girls doing their job."



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Samantha Golley, first-year, swings at the ball during the March 29 double header against Eastern Mennonite University.

Quakers baseball falls to rival Greensboro College

By Joanna Bernstein
STAFF WRITER

Although the final score didn't reflect their efforts, the Quakers' baseball team put up a good fight against the Greensboro College Pride and pitched five scoreless innings.

On March 25 the Quaker baseball team (12-14) fell to their long time rivals Greensboro (19-10) at New Bridge Bank Park, losing 9-2.

During the top of the fourth inning it looked as if the Quakers were going to make a comeback as they performed well in the field, holding the Pride to just one hit and no runs. But when it was the Quakers turn at the plate, they

failed to score as 2 batters, center Jason Flud and right fielder Byron Myers, grounded out consecutively.

Despite the Quaker's Drew Ward scoring one unearned run during the inning, the fifth was especially brutal for the Quakers with the Pride scoring four runs off of four hits.

At the top of the sixth, the Quakers trailed the Pride 8-2. But the inning was more of the same for the Quakers, who failed to score and gave up another run.

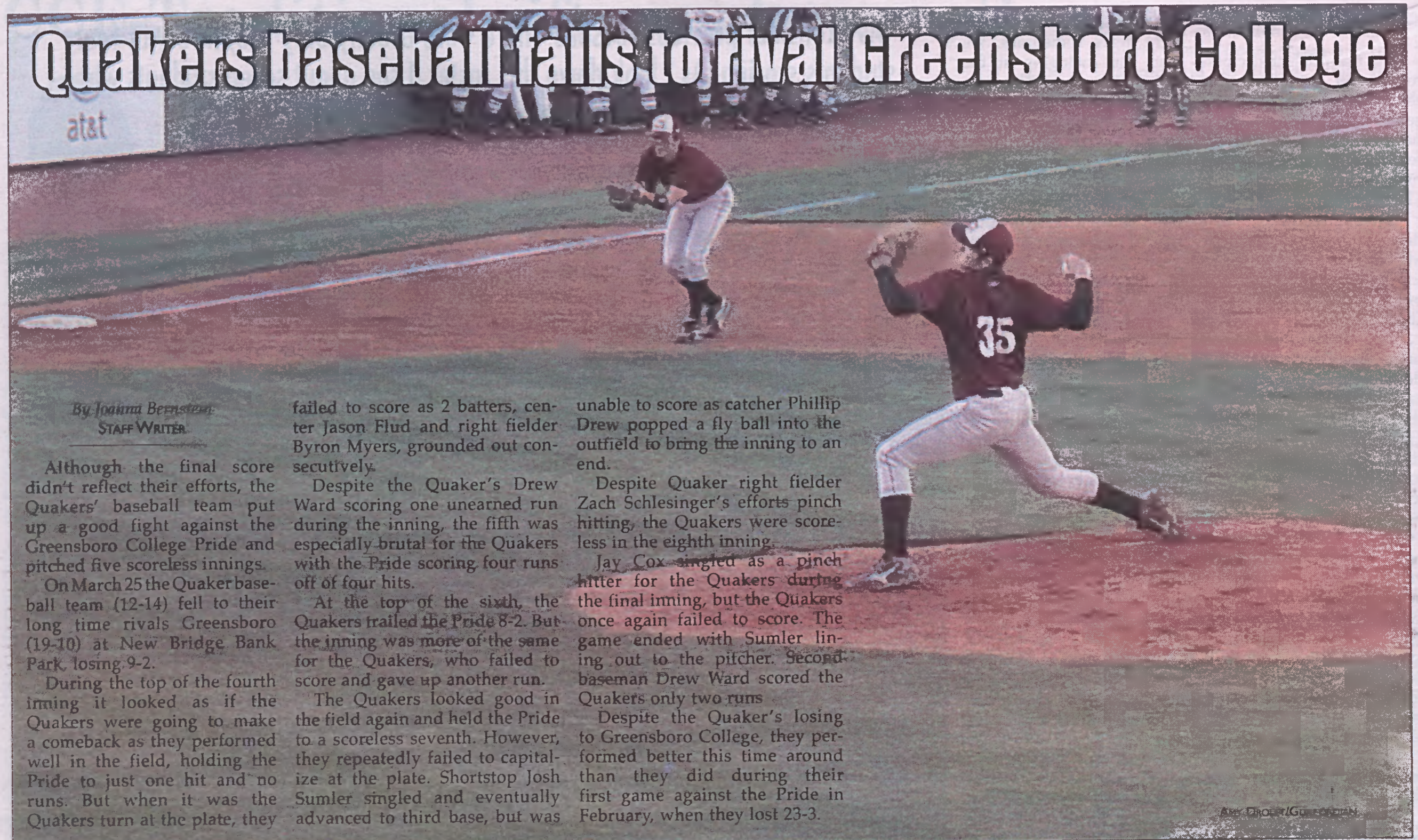
The Quakers looked good in the field again and held the Pride to a scoreless seventh. However, they repeatedly failed to capitalize at the plate. Shortstop Josh Sumler singled and eventually advanced to third base, but was

unable to score as catcher Phillip Drew popped a fly ball into the outfield to bring the inning to an end.

Despite Quaker right fielder Zach Schlesinger's efforts pinch hitting, the Quakers were scoreless in the eighth inning.

Jay Cox singled as a pinch hitter for the Quakers during the final inning, but the Quakers once again failed to score. The game ended with Sumler lining out to the pitcher. Second baseman Drew Ward scored the Quakers only two runs.

Despite the Quaker's losing to Greensboro College, they performed better this time around than they did during their first game against the Pride in February, when they lost 23-3.



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