

The Pueblo Chieftain

Your print and online news source for Southern Colorado

September 12, 2008

South softball back on track

Colts romp over Central after getting pounded at Erie tournament.

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Prior to the season, the South High School softball team was being hyped as a Class 4A state championship contender.

The Colts' mission to the prep summit received a stern reality check this past weekend at the Erie tournament as South was winless in five games.

"That tournament was tough for us," South pitching ace Marilyn Montoya said. "We came back this week and talked as a team and realized that we need to come out and give 100 percent every game. We can't take anything for granted."

South got back on track Tuesday night at Central's expense.

Thanks to timely hitting and stellar pitching, the Colts clubbed the Wildcats 11-1 in five innings in a South-Central League game at City Park. "That performance (Thursday night) was a product of that (Erie) tournament," veteran South coach Rick Reyes said. "That was a breakout game for us."

South improved its record to 4-6 overall and to 4-0 in league. Central dropped to 5-6 overall and to 2-3 in league.

Initially, the Wildcats had the upper hand as Tori Esparsen smashed an inside-the-park homer over left fielder Victoria Trujillo's head in the top of the first inning.

That turned out to be Central's lone highlight.

Kelsey Martinez tripled in a run in the bottom of the first frame for the Colts to tie the game at 1-1. South then took the lead for good in the third inning, scoring three runs, two of which came home on

Taylor Gurule's infield single with an error.

That was more than enough support for Montoya, who only allowed one Central runner to reach base in the final four innings on Breanna Cordova's single in the second.

"When we scored those runs, I got a lot of confidence and this was an important win for us," Montoya said.

Martinez paced the Colts offensively, going 3-for-3 with two RBIs. South scored seven runs in the fifth to end the game.

"Kelsey has been doing great for us this season," Reyes said. "She has really been hitting the ball well."

Larry Romero, Central's coach, was gracious in defeat.

"Give South credit; they came to play and this just wasn't our day," said Romero, whose team made five errors.

South 11, Central 1 (5)

Central	1	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	5
South	1	0	3	0	7	-	11	8	0

Muniz and Oliva; Montoya and Martinez. HR-Esparsen (first, solo).