

William Tennent offense heats up in win over Harry S. Truman

By Rick Woelfel, correspondent | Posted: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 10:00 pm

WARMINSTER — Tuesday afternoon brought chilly temperatures, plus winds that made it seem even colder. Extra layers were needed.

So William Tennent put on its hitting clothes.

The Panthers got hits up and down the lineup, 14 all told, in a 12-3 Suburban One League National Conference softball win over Harry S. Truman.

The performance was a welcome sight to a coach who has watched his team struggle at times early in the season.

“The conditions weren’t great,” Tennent coach Biz Keeny said. “But I was very pleased with the way they hit.”

Five players had two hits each. Marissa Govan had a pair of doubles out of the leadoff spot. Kate Clark delivered two singles and two RBIs.

Brianna Koonce singled, doubled and drove in a run. Jackie Heim homered, doubled and drove in three runs, and Leah Hetzel delivered a pair of singles.

Tennent (2-2 overall, 1-1 SOL) did most of its damage early, delivering three hits in each of the first three innings while scoring 10 runs.

Both teams were playing their second game in two days, but Truman pitcher Maria Dea was somewhat the worse for wear, having thrown a complete game on Monday in a 6-5, nine-inning loss to Hatboro-Horsham.

“(Dea) was coming off throwing nine innings (Monday),” Truman coach Kyle Hoffman said. “She’s cold and sore, did not hit spots.”

Govan and Heim both delivered doubles to fuel the Panthers’ three-run first. The hosts scored twice in the second with the help of doubles from Govan and Koonce before Truman (2-2) scored an unearned run in the top of the third.

Tennent added three more runs in the home third before Heim delivered a two-run shot over the fence in left-center in the fourth to make it a 10-1 game.

“The past couple games, we hadn’t had many hits,” Helm said. “I think it was real important today to get it going. We’ve had the defense, (but) we haven’t had the offense back.”

The Tigers were held to four hits by right-hander Kaisi Taufalele, who only struck out one but didn’t

walk any. Truman's only extra-base hit was Olivia Lavertu's leadoff double in the fifth.

Lavertu eventually scored on the front end of a double steal to highlight the two-run inning before Tennent added two unearned runs in the bottom of the inning.

Despite enduring a second straight defeat, Hoffman is confident about where her team is headed.

"I think we're right about where we want to be," she said. "As long as we can put the ball in play more and get a couple more hits, we'll be good to go."