

GRACE SOFTBALL COMES UP SHORT AGAINST INDIANA WESLEYAN

By Sid Elford

WINONA LAKE, Ind. – The Lady Lancers were unable to stifle the offense of the Indiana Wesleyan Wildcats, losing 11-3 and 7-5 at the Miller Athletic Complex on Friday, April 14.

The Lady Lancers (4-14 in the Crossroads League) were outdone by three home runs in the first game and losing early by run rule. However, Grace struck first thanks to an RBI single from Chandler Elliott's to score Sam Heim. But the Wildcats exploded offensively, scoring 11 runs over the next four innings. The only runs that Grace could score in the opener were in the third inning thanks to a two-out, two RBI double from Kyleigh Garner.

Grace fell behind 7-0 in the second game, and seemed to be out of the game early again, but demonstrated resolve and fought to claw back into the game. Garner led off the fourth with a double and came around to score thanks to Dori Knight for Grace's first run of the game.

The score stayed at 7-1 for IWU until the bottom of the seventh inning, where the Grace offense nearly stole the game. Grace loaded the bases thanks to two hit-by-pitches and a single from Hannah Herbster. Heim and Elliott drove in runs in their consecutive at-bats, and Ashley Kleinbub scored two more runs with a single.

IWU was able to strand the bases loaded and cling to a two-run lead with a called third strike to end the rally and to conclude the series.

The Lady Lancers are scheduled to be on the road against Taylor on Tuesday April 17, and against Indiana Wesleyan once again on Wednesday, April 18.