



Bayside bests Lewis, 11-10, in rollercoaster ride

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Bayside was looking for a little life and Cheska Mauban was just the right person to deliver it.

With the Commodores down two runs in the fifth, the junior centerfielder ripped bullet a down the left-field line for a turf-aided solo home run. When she reached the plate she yelled out in adulation, jumped up down and punched the fence behind home.

"I went insane," Mauban said after her team's eventual, 11-10 win against Francis Lewis in PSAL Queens A-I softball Wednesday. "I'm crazy. I don't think you understand. I get out of control."

Shortstop Julie Wagner followed with a single and catcher Nichola Nichols gave the Commodores their first lead with a mammoth two-run home run to left field. Bayside (11-2), ranked No. 7 in the PSAL by The Post, scored again in the fifth to take an 8-6 lead after being down 6-2.

"I think the girls got confidence right after that," Commodores third baseman Victoria Yip said.

They would need some heroics from her to pull off the win, though. Bayside took a 10-6 lead into the seventh, but No. 8 Lewis (5-5) scored four times, including a game-tying, RBI single by Tina Vigoa, to knot things up at 10. In the bottom half of the inning, Yip ripped a triple to right-centerfield and scored on a Patriots error to end the game.

"It showed a lot of character," Bayside coach Steve Piorkowski said. "I know people are going to see the score, 11-10, and say that Bayside is slipping, but I know that's not the truth with the character of these kids."

Brittany Ramos put Lewis ahead, 2-0, in the first with a double and, after Wagner's two-run double in the first inning tied the game, Lewis scored once in the second and three times in the third mostly due to shoddy Bayside defense to take a 6-2 lead.

"I gotta say that talent-wise, [Lewis] made the plays better than we did," Piorkowski said. ... "We hit our way out of things."

That started in the fourth. Yip drove in Rebecca Arce with a triple and scored on Na Eun Yoon's single. But things didn't get going until the following inning when Mauban led off with that homer.

"Every kid in my lineup is capable of hitting the ball," Piorkowski said.

Wagner, nursing a fever, went 3-for-4 with three RBIs, Nichols was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and Yoon went 2-for-3 with two RBIs off Lewis starter Priscilla Lallave. With Wagner sick and starting first baseman Yan Yan Li out for disciplinary reasons, Piorkowski said his team had the “wounded animal” mentality.

“They fought,” he said.

Lewis did, too. The Patriots scratched out four runs in the seventh off Bayside’s Keren Baruch and Kaitlyn Klein, who started the game and came back in the seventh. Katherine Doherty, Bianca Concepcion and Vigoa all had big RBIs in the frame.

“It was impressive,” Mauban said. “I was excited. I even told the umpire, ‘Tell me this isn’t interesting.’”

It certainly was and Yip put the exclamation point on it with her blast in the bottom of the seventh. When she touched home, her Bayside teammates all but tackled her.

“When a team does that, when you bounce back like that,” Mauban said, “it shows how much you want it.”

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