

## Floyd Central falls in softball state semi finals, 5-1

Written by Administrator

Friday, 19 June 2009 00:00 - Last Updated Friday, 19 June 2009 09:17

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Floyd Central's softball season ended Friday evening, when the Highlanders (23-7-1) fell 5-1 to West Lafayette Harrison in the Class 4A state semi finals at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis.

It was the most dramatic play in the offensive book that did it, too. West Lafayette Harrison's Megan Mitchell hit one over the center field fence with the bases loaded, and the Highlanders were unable to muster any offense after that.

"We were trying to get back to the top of the (batting) order," said Floyd Central coach Joe Witten. The Highlanders had batters seven, eight, and nine come up in the last inning, and Witten said "we just couldn't get another base runner. We dug such a big hole and ran out of outs."

Floyd Central hurt themselves with fielding errors throughout the contest.

"We kicked the ball around and didn't make routine plays," said Witten, "but we still had a chance to win as poorly as (we) played."

Compounding the problem was that the Floyd batters struck out at the plate 14 times.

Starting Highlander pitcher Samantha McClure got into a jam with the bases loaded in the sixth inning, with the game tied at 1-1. First, a Floyd Central fielder committed an error when the ninth batter for West Lafayette Harrison reached first. Then, two straight bunt singles filled the bases.

It looked as though McClure was going to get out of the inning alive, when the Highlanders had what Witten called "two great plays, force outs at the plate". The trouble was that the bases were still loaded.

This set up the grand slam heroics by Megan Mitchell, who then hit the grand slam. Witten The pitch that McClure threw immediately before the grand slam was down and in, but the pitch that was hit was a fastball.

There was then "no doubt it would leave the park," according to Witten.

"That's the way it goes sometimes," added the Floyd Central coach. "It was just one of those games where it came down to one pitch."

Floyd got on the scoreboard in the second inning (and a 1-0 lead) when Brittany Mills scored on a double by Jenna Mackin. Mills had gotten on base off of a single.

Despite losing three seniors, Floyd Central's softball fortunes should be solid next year, with several players returning as juniors and seniors.

Witten hopes to see them have another run in the state tournament next year, with this year's experience under their belts.

Floyd Central senior Brittany Miller won the Mental Attitude Award in softball from the IHSAA.

Join St. Mary of the Knobs to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style! Their 4th Annual Reverse Raffle is set for Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. Only 100 tickets sold in increments of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Total cash prizes of \$5,500 – even losers have a second chance to win!