



Gary Harmon/ENI

Above, Northside's Taylor Parker (12) and Houston County's Lindsay Harman (5) get in a battle for a loose soccer ball. At left, Lady Bear Rachel Kline (25) gets in front of Parker with hopes of setting up a scoring chance for Houston.



RALLY

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(Ryan Fowler). That sliced the lead down to one run at 9-8, but the inning ended as Patterson, the 10th batter for Perry, grounded out to first base.

Warner Robins got one run back in the top of the seventh as Odom was hit by a pitch and Landen Hattaway sacrificed for the second time on the night. Lee reached on catcher's interference, and a steal attempt of third base led to another Perry throwing error.

Catron settled his control down in the final Panther turn with two strikeouts to end it.

Grimm started on the mound for Perry coach Shawn Masters and threw five full innings. He had two perfect frames, but also had bouts of control issues, all three of his walks coming in one inning. Grimm struck out seven.

As the leadoff batter, Grimm consistently reached base. He staked himself to a 1-0 first-inning lead with an infield single. After taking two bases on wild pitches, Grimm scored on Gentry's RBI out.

Kinnon Wildes sent a baseball deep into left field leading off Warner Robins' second and tying the score. Odom also had a second-inning single, but Grimm escaped further trouble with two strikeouts.

After working as a relief pitcher in 2009, Demon Tyler Purvis started on Thursday and also went back and forth with his control. His defensive help also went back and forth. Brock Daughtry had

Perry going with a leadoff double to left in the home second. Kevin Jones drew a one-out walk, and Ricks tagged the first pitch he saw. Unfortunately for the Panthers, third baseman Matt Kile dove for the catch and got the double play.

The Perry bats found holes in the infield in the third inning for three runs. With two outs and one runner on, Gentry, Tyler Martens and Daughtry hit three straight balls that became three straight errors. Fowler singled to make the score 4-1, and the inning actually ended with Dempsey, the shortstop, cutting off a ball going up the middle.

The three walks from Grimm came in the fourth inning, and the Demons scored once on a wild pitch. Purvis held the Panthers in the home fourth - his final inning - with two strikeouts giving him five.

Dempsey and Burke singled back-to-back to start the top of the fifth. Grimm fanned the next two batters, but a wild pitch sent the runners to scoring position. Wildes sent a hard shot past first base to tie the game.

"I don't know what it is, but in the last few years we've come (to Perry) and made a lot of errors," said Beatty. "I don't know what it is. We made more errors (Thursday) than we made all season.

"But we're young and we're going to make some mistakes. We just have to pick each other up. They let themselves get down, and I told the older guys we have to encourage them. They have been playing pretty good.

"But the effort we had (Thursday) is not going

to win many games in our region. I'm proud with our offensive effort. We still average 10 runs a game. I don't know how, because that was the only long ball we've hit. Somehow we do it."

Malone threw a six-inning no-hitter Wednesday as Warner Robins defeated Rutland at home 10-0. He struck out nine, and there was one error on defense.

The way the Demons scored had much to do with sacrificing runners over and using outs to touch home. That's what Casey Graham did in the first inning when Burke singled and Suggs bunted him to second.

The lead stayed 1-0 until a three-run fifth. Hattaway had the only hit as the first batter, and he stole second base. Lee put down a bunt and reached on an error that also plated Hattaway. Lee and Dempsey, who walked, scored on outs.

Malone and Kile singled in runs a six-run sixth. Lee also had a hit and Burke a sacrifice fly.

Beatty's lineup includes five sophomores, and on Monday they went to Henry County and beat Eagle's Landing 15-3. Bryce Traugher earned the win. His only bad inning was the second when Eagle's Landing scored all three runs on a throwing error with the bases full.

Warner Robins countered with a six-run third inning on seven hits. The Demons scored nine times in the sixth on three hits and three errors.

Burke had three hits - with a double and a triple - and three RBI. Malone drove home four runs on two doubles, and Graham had two hits with one RBI.



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Devon Pike has to find a way past two Houston County defenders Wednesday. He scored two of his team's three goals in the 4-3 home loss.

HC Bears sweep Eagles

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Journal Sports Writer

Northside's Eagles came ever so close to earning a soccer win at home Wednesday against Region 1-A power and county neighbor Houston County High.

But in the last five minutes, the Bears scored two goals to turn a 3-2 deficit into a 4-3 victory and 2-0 record in league play.

The Eagles played even with Houston County in the first half as Seth Semones and Devon Pike scored in what was a 2-2 tie.

The Bears kept putting on pressure with speed and rapid ball movement. They opened the second half with a charge down the left side broken up by Dillon Mixon and a long shot saved in goal.

Seven minutes into the half, Felipe Castaioeda hit a free kick towards Pike, who scored his second goal on a high arc shot.

Houston County missed two shots just second after

the ensuing kickoff. Mixon and Justin Yun kept clearing balls out of the Eagle penalty box, and Northside had one other shot on goal saved with about 26 minutes in regulation.

The clock stopped at exactly five minutes to play when the Bears connected on a free kick to tie the match at 3-3. The Eagles, much like Houston did after their go-ahead goal, took a quick shot that was knocked out for a corner kick.

Not only did the Bears clear the ball from their zone, but the speed and passing skills set up the winning goal, which came just about a minute after the tying score.

Northside went to 1-1 in the region, 2-1 overall. The Eagles went to Colquitt County High for region play Friday. Houston County also had a 2-1 mark going into Friday's 1-A home contest with Valdosta.

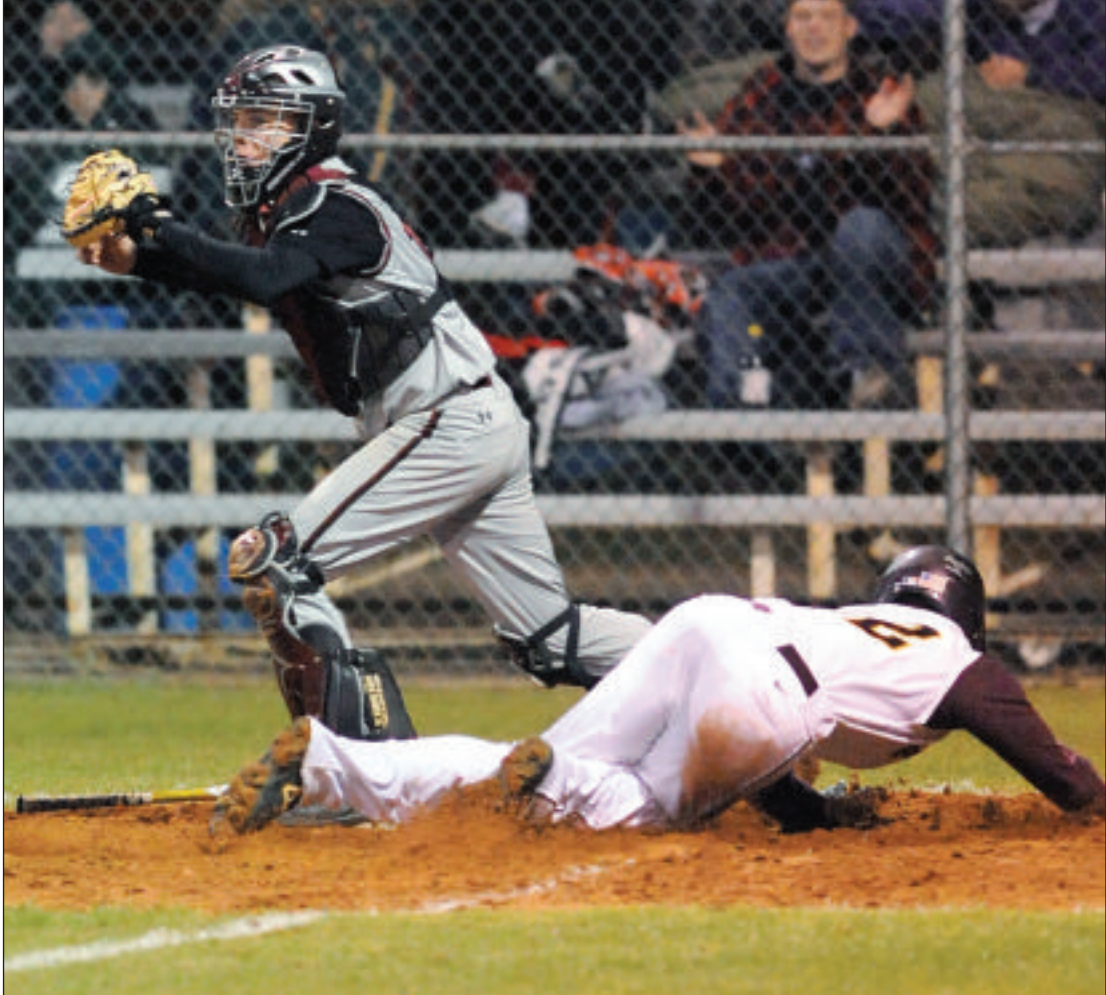
In girls soccer action Wednesday, the Houston

County Lady Bears also won against the Northside Eagles by one goal, 2-1. Both Houston wins were in region play while the Lady Eagles left still looking for a league victory.

There was a bit of a scary scene for Sid Baxley's Houston club when senior forward Kaily Garrison limped off the field seven minutes into the match. She returned to get an assist on the first goal for the Lady Bears at the 22:16 mark.

Most of the first half was a midfield battle between Lady Bear veterans Kayla Beitler and Elizabeth Weber and Northside's sophomore Kellie Starvetsky and senior Emily Nissen. Weber took a free kick caught by Eagle keeper Shelby Dauer. Kellie Allen and Erin Taylor also cleared away several of Houston's attacks.

It was Weber who put the visitors up 2-0 in the second half. Northside's goal came with about 11 minutes to play.



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Above, Perry's Roderick Ricks tries to score, but Warner Robins catcher Ty Odom has the baseball in time for a force out in the sixth inning. Perry would go on to score four times and make Thursday's contest a one-run game. At left, Warner Robins third baseman Matt Kile tries to make a play on a Panther runner. He would make an inning-saving diving catch for a double play.

