WARRIORS *from B1*

ing hard, she's a good pitcher and she's obviously showing that and proving that. But in order to be competitive with that, you have to anticipate what she's going to throw which is, she's going to work ahead in the count and we can't sit back and wait," said Held. "We can't let her get two strikes on us and then throw anything she wants because she's got multiple pitches."

While Derrick and the Warriors ended with the win, they also faced a top pitcher in Oakland's Andie Bean who struck out 14 batters and gave up seven hits.

"That was the best I've ever seen her pitch," said Rice. "I was impressed by both (pitchers)."

The Warriors capitalized on a pair of two-out hits in the third inning from Riley Black and Halli Vaughn. Black ripped a ball past the short stop and was able to score from first on Vaughn's hit to center field that was nearly caught by Oakland's centerfielder.

Despite the victory, the Warriors main focus is on improving their hitting as the season moves forward. While easy to say, in a 10-team league that has seven teams at or below .500, in reality, it can be a difficult task.

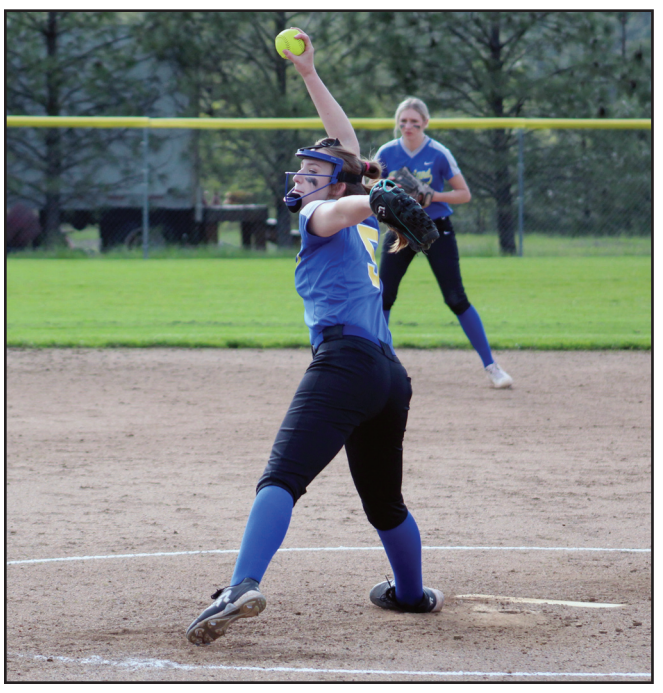
"I really thought our bats would show up a little better. I really did. But, in the girls' defense, we haven't seen a pitcher that good in a while," said Rice. "So it kind of caught us off guard and took the girls a while to adjust."

Derrick echoed a similar sentiment.

"We didn't get our bats going and that's just something that we have to adjust to. We go from playing someone who pitches 30 miles per hour to someone who pitches like that and we're going to have to adjust to," she said. "That was the first time that we've had to do that this year so I think second time around it's going to be a lot different game, a lot different scoring. I'm just glad we came out and got it done with that one run."

With the win, North Douglas join seventh-ranked Central Linn (15-1, 8-0) at the top of the Special District 3 Standings. The Warriors will play the Cobras at home on May 3.

The rest of this week North Douglas will face Riddle (3-7, 1-4) on Tuesday and Wednesday before taking on Lowell (4-7, 4-3) in a double-header on Saturday.



Left: Oakland pitcher Andie Bean struck out 14 batters on Monday. Right: North Douglas freshman Megan Cutsforth swings at a pitch against Oakland. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

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