

YSU softball team defeats Miami - Women sweep state championship

by Bill Snier

The Miami (O.) University women's softball team purchased a large layer cake before Saturday's Ohio Association of Inter-collegiate Sports for Women state Championship game at Dayton. Inscribed on the cake were the

words "Miami - State Champions 1978." Miami never had a chance to enjoy that cake.

The YSU women's softball team won the state championship by defeating Miami, 5-2, at Dayton Saturday. In winning the championship, the Penguin girls had to defeat the number two and number one seeded teams in the tourney (Kent State and Miami).

Before we take a closer look at exactly how the Penguins won that championship game, let's examine the road which led to this accomplishment.

Two weeks ago, the Penguin women entered the state tourney as the number three seed. The women lived up to that billing by whitewashing the College of Wooster and Cederville College, 11-0 and 3-0 respectively, which pushed them into the semi-finals of the tourney.

But the waters of spring washed out all tourney games on Saturday and Sunday. So the Penguins were scheduled to resume their quest on Thursday at Mile Branch Field near Alliance against Kent State. Again, rain postponed the game so the Penguins returned to the friendly confines of Rocky Ridge to face a Kent State team that they had split with in two games during the regular season. Only this time, although the Penguins played on their home field, they were designated as the visitors.

Kent State took the early lead by scoring single runs in the second and third innings to lead 2-0.

The Penguins came alive in the fifth inning to cut the deficit to 2-1. The run came on a single by Linda Papagna and a triple by Leslie Ingram. YSU then added a run in the seventh on a

single by Linda Papagna to knot the score at 2-2. The game remained that way through the bottom of the seventh and up until the eleventh.

Each team pushed one run across in the eleventh inning to keep the game knotted. The Penguins scored on a home run by Andrea Zbydniewski.

The Penguins finally put an end to the marathon in the fourteenth inning. After Ronie Prince singled and Linda Papagna walked, Jill Harmon smashed a base hit scoring both runners for the final 5-2 count. Harmon also was the winning pitcher.

The Penguin defense was again fantastic as Kent stranded twelve runners in scoring position.

Immediately following the game, the Penguins hopped in their cars and headed for Dayton. The girls arrived at about 2 a.m. for the two o'clock game the following day.

It was a rather fatigued YSU outfit against an extremely confident Miami team, with the fighting spirit of the Penguins prevailing, 5-2.

YSU jumped ahead in the first inning on a single by Denise Amado and a triple by Andrea Zbydniewski.

Miami then charged back with two runs in the bottom of the second to take a 2-1 lead. But, as they have so often this season, the Penguins came from behind with two runs in the fifth on singles by Michelle Yonkers and Denise Amado and a base clearing triple by Andrea Zbydniewski, to take a 3-2 lead.

Their extreme overconfidence shaken, Miami then began to throw the game away themselves.

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Women win Championship

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The pitching staff walked three straight batters in the sixth to load the bases. Jill Harmon then rapped a single chasing home the final two runs of the game.

"We got what we deserved!" was the comment made by head coach Pauline Noe on her team's accomplishments. This may not be a one year accomplishment for the Penguins lose only two seniors this season. Those seniors are shortstop Cindy

Burazer and rightcenter fielder Judy Rutz.

An added note which may interest you, the Penguins as a team did have one certain superstition that was related to this writer by Pauline Noe. It seems that the women would make a point of driving over a set of railroad tracks before every game and making a wish. Wonder what their wish was before Saturday's game? Maybe there is something to old superstitions.