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strike out two batters and get one to popup to short.

The Cougars took a 1-0 lead in the second. Gardiner (2-for-3) beat out an infield dribbler down the third baseline then Ingraham drilled her RBI double to center.

The lead held until the Westfield fourth inning. Gardiner hit the leadoff batter, Erica Lawrence (1-for-3, 2 runs). Romano bounced a single off the shortstop's glove and Gen Howell loaded the bases when her grounder was mishandled. Gagliardi ricocheted a hard shot off the glove of third baseman Ingraham as Lawrence and Romano sprinted around to score.

"I tried in that situation to hit the ball on the ground hard or get it to the outfield so I can get the run in. Just had to battle with two strikes and get the runs in," Gagliardi said.

Hobson drew a walk then Pietrewicz pounded her two-run double off the centerfield wall. Hobson's courtesy runner, Caroline Dwyer, also attempted to score on the play but she was gunned down at the plate on a great throw by centerfielder Ava Manfra to catcher Erin Schwerdtfeger.

"With the bases loaded, I was just trying to hit the ball hard somewhere, try to get some RBI and I was able to do it today," Pietrewicz explained.

Pietrewicz then scored on Stogner's groundout to second.

"I was trying to get the run in and if you have to sacrifice, you have to sacrifice to get the run in and push the team forward," Stogner said.

The Cougars were not about to surrender and proved it in the fifth when Ingraham reached first

base on an error at second and Heim tagged Hobson's fastball for a two-run homer over the

centerfield fence to make the score 5-3. The Blue Devils took advantage of some balls in the



dirt and some wild pitches to score twice in the bottom of the inning. Lawrence beat out an infield single and sped to second on a wild pitch. Howell drew a free pass. Both runners advanced on a pitch in the dirt. Another wild pitch allowed Lawrence to score on a close play at the plate. Then Howell came sliding home on Gagliardi's ground out to third.

Back came the Cougars with two runs in the sixth to close the gap to 7-5. Schwerdtfeger whacked a hard double to left. Pietrewicz in right field hauled in Manfra's hard liner for the first out. Gardiner chopped an infield single then Ingraham's bloop into center was dropped as Schwerdtfeger scored. The second Cougar scored when the throw from center was off the mark.

On her catch, Pietrewicz ex-

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