

# BC3 Pioneer Softball claims first NJCAA Division III Region XX crown

## Pioneers to battle Long Island squad for national district title

May 3, 2017

(Youngwood, PA) Noel Pfabe stroked run-scoring doubles in the third and fifth innings, and Codi Reed fanned four batters Sunday as the Butler County Community College softball team won its first National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Region XX championship by beating Anne Arundel 4-2 in Game 2 of the best-of-three series.

Codi Reed (7-3) worked five innings in the circle and walked one. Jessi Reed pitched the final two innings and notched the save for BC3. The Reeds attended Knoch High School.

BC3 advances to face Suffolk County Community College, of Long Island, N.Y., in the best-of-three NJCAA

District H Tournament in Brentwood, N.Y. The first two games are set for Saturday. A deciding game, if needed, would be played Sunday.

Head Coach Roni Mall, in her third season with BC3, heard how subdued her players appeared to be after the historic victory.

“They are used to winning,” she said of the Pioneers, who moved to 20-3 overall with their seventh victory in a row. “They were excited, but not over-the-top screaming. They realize they are not finished yet.”

Assistant Coach Dan Beebe added that he doesn’t know whether the accomplishment has “sunk in” with the BC3 players.

“I’m not sure all the players realized at the end of the game that this was the first time BC3 won the regional championship,” he said.

BC3 is coming off its second Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference crown in a row and fourth overall.



Members of the BC3 Pioneer Softball team that won the College’s first NJCAA Region XX championship are, front row, from left, Assistant Coach Lisa Smith, Saydie Moore, Lydia Roth, Nicole Houk, Hayle Fox and statistician Shyana McCommon. Rear, from left, Assistant Coach Dan Beebe, Assistant Coach Paul Smith, Alexis Vogan, Ashley Coon, Noel Pfabe, Kristen Karcher, Codi Reed, Jessi Reed, Assistant Coach Jim Jones and Head Coach Roni Mall.

“I have always said to enjoy the victories,” Beebe said, “but my favorite trophy is always the next one.”

Kristen Karcher, a Freeport Area High graduate, also had a run-scoring triple in the sixth inning for BC3, which had eight hits.

“My batting order,” Mall said, “no matter what order you put it in, there is not a hole in that lineup. That is almost unheard of.”

Nikki Houk, a New Castle Area High graduate, added a triple for the Pioneers.

BC3 opened its season with a doubleheader sweep of Anne Arundel, of Arnold, Md., 10-1 and 7-4.

“We had familiarity playing them,” Beebe said. “But it has been a long time since the first two games of the season. We had a steady hitting attack, just like all season. The bottom of the batting order kept rolling it over to the top of the batting order. When your seven-through-nine batters are hitting and you are running on all cylinders, that makes it hard to stop you.”

Suffolk County (20-15, 14-1 conference) beat Dutchess Community College, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 4-1 Saturday in the Region XV championship.

## Game 1: BC3 9, Anne Arundel 2

Jessi Reed (13-0) fanned six and walked one in getting the complete-game win.

Pfabe, a Butler Area Junior-Senior High graduate, had three singles and two RBI, and Houk had two singles and two RBI.

Ashley Coon, of Karns City, had a triple and a single; Alexis Vogan, of Slippery Rock, and Codi Reed hit doubles; and Hayle Fox, of Knoch, hit three singles.

The Pioneers had 15 hits in Game 1, played a “clean” game on defense, “and our pitching was phenomenal, just like it has been all year,” Beebe said. “They were throwing strikes, giving the defense a chance and limiting the amount of walks.”

The National Junior College Athletic Association Division III District H series against Suffolk County will be close, Beebe said.

“It is good for us to be battle-tested,” Beebe said. “It lets the players realize where we stand as the playoffs go on. The wins are not always big wins. But you have to play a clean game.”

BC3’s roster also includes Katie Winter, of Avonworth; Lydia Roth, of Erie County; Amanda Webb, of Butler; Taylor Downs, of Karns City; Kalynn Callihan, of Butler; and Saydie Moore, of Karns City.

“These players,” Mall said, “are definitely realizing what they have.”

Moore, Houk, Codi Reed and Pfabe were named to the Region XX all-tournament team. Mall also credits the work of Beebe and assistant coaches Jim Jones and Paul and Lisa Smith.