

# BC3's Beebe WPCC softball coach of year; 4 players on all-conference squad

April 28, 2019



Butler County Community College softball coach Dan Beebe, foreground, was named April 27, 2019, as the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference coach of the year for a second consecutive season, and BC3 players, from left, Sydney Natili, Casey Kretzer, Abby Black and Amber Izzo, were selected to the WPCC all-conference team. The Pioneers placed second in the WPCC tournament at Seton Hill University in Greensburg on April 27, 2019, after their first loss of the season.

(Greensburg, PA) Butler County Community College softball coach Dan Beebe on Saturday was named the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference coach of the year for the second consecutive season, and BC3 players Sydney Natili, Casey Kretzer, Abby Black and Amber Izzo were selected to the WPCC all-conference team after the Pioneers finished second in the WPCC tournament at Seton Hill University.

Westmoreland County Community College against BC3 overcame deficits of 5-1 and 8-4 to post a 12-8 victory in the championship, handing the Pioneers their first loss of the season and dashing hopes of a fourth consecutive WPCC title in a row.

The Pioneers had a season-high 14 hits in a 16-1, five-inning semifinal victory against Garrett College, McHenry, Md., to reach the championship against the Wolfpack.

BC3 finishes at 5-1 in an inclement-weather shortened season in which Izzo, who entered Saturday's tournament 17-for-17 at the plate, led players on all 67 teams in Division III of the National Junior College Athletic Association with a 1.000 batting average, and Black, 14-for-15, was second at .933.

Freshmen Izzo, a Mohawk High graduate, and Black, a Knoch graduate, had two singles each against Westmoreland.

Natili and Mackenzie Craig, who this month was named BC3's first two-sport All-American, receiving the prestigious NJCAA Division III honors in basketball and volleyball, had three hits in the title game. Natili is a sophomore and Knoch graduate and Craig, a sophomore and Karns City graduate.

Natili against Westmoreland had two singles following a first-inning double off the fence in left-center field, and scored to give BC3 a 1-0 lead when Izzo reached on a Wolfpack outfielder's error.

BC3 took a 5-1 lead with a four-run second, sparked by Izzo's two-run single and a run-scoring bloop base hit to right field by Jesse Yenick, a sophomore and Knoch graduate.

The Pioneers increased their lead to 8-4 with a three-run fourth inning. Abby Kopac, a freshman and Knoch graduate, knocked in a run with a sharp double to the left-center field wall and scored on Lauren Smith's infield single. Smith, a sophomore and Seneca Valley graduate, scored on Craig's single to left.

The Wolfpack countered with three runs in the fifth inning and four in the sixth to win their first WPCC title since 2007 and second overall. BC3 has won five WPCC titles and has finished second five times since 1986.

In the semifinal victory against Garrett College, Izzo hit her first home run of the season, a first-inning solo shot to left-center field. Izzo was 3-for-4 with a double and suffered her first out of the season by flying out to left fielder Nyasia Jones in the second inning.

Yenick was 3-for-3 with two doubles and two RBI against the Lakers, Natili hit her first home run of the season, a two-run shot to left field in the second inning, and Black was 2-for-3 with a two-run double and three RBI.

Kretzer is a freshman and graduate of Knoch.