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By EARL WATT

- Leader & Times

After a solid start to the season, the Lady Redskins took a step back Tuesday in a double header against Garden City.

Liberal dropped both games, and while the Lady Buffaloes helped their cause with solid hits, the Lady Redskins also committed a combined 14 errors in the two games that led to 24-5 and 12-1 losses.

After allowing five runs in the first inning of Game 1, the Lady Redskins bounced back in the bottom half of the inning with four runs of their own.

Riley Hay singled, Kaitlyn Ralston found a way on base, and Cynthia Cisneros followed with a drag bunt single.

Jaycee Darroch hit a three-run double and later scored on a sacrifice fly from Brittney Granger.

Defense falters in double dip for Lady Redskin softball

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But the Lady Buffaloes continued to pound the ball against Darroch. Granger came in relief in the third inning to get the final out, but Garden City pounded out 21 hits to go along with six Lady Redskin errors for the 24-5 win.

Hay was two-for-two, and Darroch was one-for-two with three RBIs.

Freshman Granger took the mound in Game 2, and after a rocky first inning where four walks were issued and Garden City score four runs, she settled down and kept the Lady Buffaloes off the scoreboard in the second and third.

Liberal was bale to load the bases with two outs in the second inning, and Stephanie Sanchez walked to force Darroch across the plate. But the Lady Redskins left the bases loaded after a pop-out to third base from Hay, and the Lady Redskins trailed 4-1.

“Offensively, we couldn’t get going,” Liberal coach Pat Knott said.

Granger was able to get two outs in the fourth before an error allowed the inning to continue, and Garden City added three more runs to take a 7-1 lead.

Granger walked the lead-off batter in the fifth, and that run scored. But that was the only run Granger allowed in the fifth.

Two more errors in the sixth and a walk allowed Garden City to score three more runs in the sixth, and when the Lady Redskins could not answer, the game ended by the run rule, 12-1.

“I have to take that one,” Knott said. “I thought we were ready. I have to do a better job myself. We are indecisive. We fumbled it, and I thought we were out of that. I need to do a better job of that.”

In Western Athletic Conference games, there is little room for error, and the 14 committed by Liberal led to the blowout losses.

“The WAC will put it in play,” Knott said. “You have to play a perfect game. We can’t give up more runs than what we can respond. Offensively, we won’t get a bunch. We have to manufacture them. If we have a big inning we have it, but I thought we were prepared mentally better than we have been in the past with Garden. The older girls have been there before.”

Liberal (5-3) will host Wichita Southeast at 4 p.m. Friday, and the seniors will be recognized.

Liberal split with Southeast in Wichita last year.

“These are two games we have to pick ourselves up,” Knott said.

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