

# BC3 claims 3rd WPCC softball title in row

Pioneers set to defend Region XX crown under coach of year Beebe

April 23, 2018



The Butler County Community College softball team on Saturday won its third consecutive Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference title with a 7-6 victory over Garrett College, of McHenry, Md. Members of BC3's team are Jessi Reed, Lydia Roth, Ashley Coon, Nikki Houk, Alexis Vogan, Lauren Smith, Mackenzie Bortmas, Jesse Yenick, Brooke Dingel, Sydney Natili, Alyssa Dailey and Bailey Campbell. Dan Beebe is the head coach and Jim Jones, the assistant coach.

(Saxonburg, PA) Jesse Yenick drove in three runs and scored two, Alyssa Dailey starred in only her second game at first base, and Jessi Reed worked out of a seventh-inning jam as the Butler County Community College softball team Saturday held off Garrett College 7-6 and captured its third Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference title in a row.

The Pioneers (5-0) advance to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Region XX championships, where they will defend the program's first crown in the double-elimination tournament this weekend in Arnold, Md.

Dan Beebe was named the WPCCC's coach of the year Saturday after succeeding Roni Mall, who retired in January and under whom the Pioneers had won two of their previous four conference titles since 1989.

Pioneers Reed and Dailey were named to the all-conference team Saturday, as were Bailey Campbell, a Mars High graduate; Nikki Houk, New Castle; and Ashley Coon, Karns City. Reed attended Knoch and Dailey, Moniteau.

Joining BC3 in the NJCAA tournament in Arnold will be Montgomery College, of Rockville, Md., and host Anne Arundel. The Pioneers in 2017 won their first NJCAA Division III Region XX title by sweeping Anne Arundel in the finals.

BC3 in 2017 advanced to the NJCAA Division III District H Tournament in Brentwood, N.Y., where it dropped two games to Suffolk County, the eventual national Division III runner-up.

Garrett College, of McHenry, Md., earned a berth in the finals by scoring one run in the bottom of the seventh inning in Saturday's semifinals to beat Westmoreland County Community College 5-4.

The Pioneers took a 3-0 first-inning lead Saturday. Dailey beat out an infield bloop to third base and stole second. Coon drew a walk before Yenick's two-out single to left-center field gave BC3 a 2-0 lead. Yenick later scored on an infield error.

The Lakers pulled to 3-3 in the third inning and 4-4 in the fifth until Yenick tripled to right-center field in the bottom of the frame to score Sydney Natili, of Knoch.



BC3's Alyssa Dailey, in her second game at first base, stretches to record the putout on Garrett College's Skylar Ferguson in the first inning of Saturday's Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference title game at Laura Doerr Park in Saxonburg. Backing up on the play is BC3 second baseman Jesse Yenick.



BC3 second baseman Jesse Yenick applies the tag to a sliding Alexis Sneed, of Garrett College, in the top of the seventh inning of Saturday's Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference title game at Laura Doerr Park in Saxonburg.

“When I saw it drop down, I thought, ‘Run,’ Yenick said. “‘Run your heart out.’”

Yenick scored on Reed’s triple and Reed, on a sacrifice fly to give the Pioneers a 7-4 lead.

After Garrett College pulled to 7-6 in the top of the seventh, and with runners on first and second, Reed got Nyasia Jones to line out to third base and struck out Katelyn Tasker to clinch the BC3’s seventh consecutive victory against Garrett, the win in BC3’s closest game of 2018 and the WPCC title.



BC3 pitcher Jessi Reed fires to the plate during Saturday’s Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference title game against Garrett College at Laura Doerr Park in Saxonburg.

“We did pull it out at the end,” Reed said, “and we did hold them.”

“Sometimes it is not always going to be 16-1,” said Beebe, whose squads have posted victories in 2018 by that score, and by 9-1, 11-2 and 13-2. “It was good to get tested and have a one-run game to see how we battle and before we go to regionals.”

Dailey, his usual second baseman, played well at first base as a result of a lineup change to accommodate the unavailability Saturday of his starting catcher, Alexis Vogan.

“Dailey,” Beebe said, “did a really good job.”

With one out and Lauryn Moon at second base in a second inning in which the Lakers pulled to 3-1, Reed got Nicole Pysell to hit a grounder to second baseman Yenick, who tossed to Dailey at first for the putout. Dailey then threw across the diamond to third baseman Coon to tag out Moon and record the inning-ending double play.

“I looked,” Dailey said, “and there was a chance to throw it to third.”

With a runner at first and no out in the top of the sixth, Dailey fielded a ground ball at first and threw to shortstop Natali covering second to erase the lead runner, Pysell. Houk added another stellar defensive play to end the inning when she scooped Casie Wright’s single to center field and threw home to freeze Jones halfway down the third base line. BC3 catcher Campbell then threw to Coon at third to erase Jones in a rundown.

Wright, who took the loss in the circle for Garrett College, said BC3 is a difficult team to retire in order – something she managed to do in only the second inning.

“They had good timely hitting,” Wright said. “It seemed every time they had someone on base, they would get a base hit.”

Garrett College Coach Terry Chapman agreed.

“BC3 hit well,” he said. “But we had two good comebacks. We were just one run shy of a coming back from this one today.”