

Sports

Softball

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Humpal and Paige Steenhoek each had one hit, Addison Steenhoek walked twice and Addi Hudnut and Skylar Burns scored one run each.



P. Steenhoek

Humpal was hit by a pitch and had one RBI, Paige Steenhoek scored one run and Johannes was hit by a pitch.

Schudel (0-1) started in the circle and allowed five earned runs on five hits and two walks in three innings. She struck out one.

Lindsay surrendered six runs — four earned — on three hits, three walks and one hit batter in 1 1/3 innings. She struck out one.

Ila Keuning tossed 1 2/3 innings and allowed no earned runs on one hit and one hit batter. She struck out two.



PCM senior Joslin Briles (20) belted her fourth home run of the season against Newton on July 3. The host Cardinals downed PCM 11-4. Photo by Gary Hanson

Accident

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The accident happened at a place that has seen multiple accidents. It's not the safest situation.

"My parents are still trying to get a stop sign out there, but there is a hidden entrance sign to let people know to slow down a little," Palm said.

Palm was driving at the time of the accident.

Buswell saw the truck coming from the passenger seat and the group remembers hearing her shout Reese's name.

"I remember hearing Eliana yell Reese so I turned to see what she was referring to and it was a white truck coming right at us," Schendel said. "I'm not sure who else saw it coming."

"They think Eliana and Reese bonked heads and Lark and I ran into each other."

Schendel was cleared right away and went home with her parents. Buswell went to Newton and Palm and Drake were taken to Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines. Buswell and Palm were released that night.

"We found out they were being transported by ambulance and one by life flight," Hudnut said. "We ordered pizza and stayed for drinks. I did end up visiting Buswell in Newton and then went to Des Moines to see the other two at Blank."

Schendel had a bad neck spasm for a little bit, but she had to deal with more of the mental side of things.

"At the site, I was the one who had to give names and birthdays and that stuff," Schendel said. "We ran into a pole, but I don't remember that. I just remember the first thing I saw was Lark and her head

was full of blood. That was scary. The hardest thing for me was making sure I was OK. I got out of the vehicle and then got back in to help Lark. I found a pair of sweatpants and wrapped them around Lark's head. She doesn't remember much about that.

"I think we still don't really know exactly what happened."

Drake certainly suffered the most injuries. She was in the driver's side passenger seat and was taken to the hospital by life flight as a precaution.

Drake broke her jaw in two different places, had a big gash on her forehead that required 16 stitches and she broke her right collarbone, two ribs in her back and her T-1, which is part of her vertebrae.

"I had two jaw surgeries and my jaw was wired shut for a few weeks," Drake said.

While the other three got to go home soon after the accident, Drake stayed overnight at Blank and then went by ambulance to Iowa City the next day.

"There was no one at Blank who could do my surgery," Drake said. "We went to Iowa City on Thursday and they did my surgery on Saturday morning. I was there for about three days."

Palm suffered a concussion and injuries to her head.

Buswell tore a part of her ear and had a hematoma in her eardrum, which took a really long time to heal.

"I just remember Reese repeating the same question over and over again. It was scary," Schendel said. "I didn't want to go in-depth with her because I knew she wouldn't remember it. I just tried to keep calm, but it was hard to deal with."

All things considered, the foursome knows they got a bit lucky.

And it's because the driver of

the truck pulled the E-brake and swerved a little bit before hitting Palm's car. That helped lessen the impact.

"He made some decisions that probably saved lives," Hudnut said. "We are thankful for those decisions. I think it was about as positive as we could have hoped for."

Palm considers herself lucky after the driver's side door was pushed into the center console.

"I'm not sure how I wasn't injured more," Palm said. "I don't remember anything."

Drake, a three-year starter coming into the season, missed all but one game this summer.

She played in the team's regular-season finale against Newton on July 3 and warmed up for the first time before the Mustangs' home game against South Hamilton on June 28.

Schendel missed the first six games and started all 21 she played in. She debuted against Perry on May 31 and finished the season with 13 hits, seven runs, three doubles, nine RBIs and four walks.

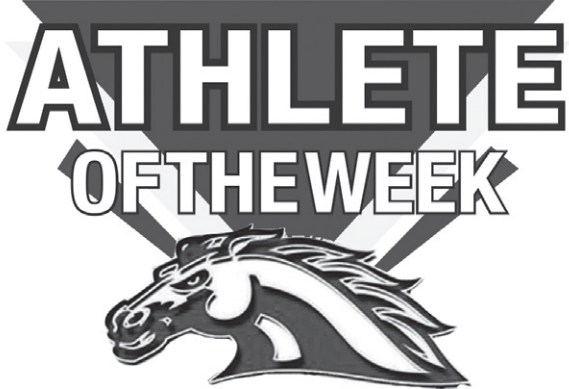
Palm made eight starts and played in 15 games. She debuted against West Marshall on June 2 and tallied three hits, five runs and three walks this season.

Buswell made her season debut on June 22 against Pella Christian. She ended the year with one hit, one walk and two runs.

With so many seniors graduating from this year's team, the junior foursome could be counted on for so much more next summer.

And Hudnut will be glad to have them back on the field for the entire season.

"We went from thinking we had so much depth this year to not knowing what to expect," Hudnut said. "We are just glad they are all OK."



Joslin Briles



PCM senior Joslin Briles led the Mustang softball team this summer with four homers and 45 total bases. She batted .338, had an on-base percentage of .422 and finished with 26 hits, 13 runs, seven doubles and 10 walks. Her fielding percentage was .956 and her 23 RBIs ranked second on the team.



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