

MEMPHIS -- Emily Nicholson homered twice and Courtney Maynard gave up one unearned run in six innings, as Cumberland split a doubleheader at Christian Brothers, losing the opener 9-3 before posting a 4-1 victory in the second contest Sunday.

The Bulldogs (3-1) made two errors in the first game and numerous other mistakes but still trailed just 4-2 before the Buccaneers (1-1) plated five more runs in the sixth inning. In the second game Nicholson's two-run blast was part of a three-run first inning, staking Maynard to an early lead for the second straight outing.

Megan Lavery reached base four times in the doubleheader without a hit and scored three runs, while Nicholson collected three hits with three RBIs in the twinbill.

Maynard (2-0) gave up four hits with one walk and five strikeouts in six innings of work and has allowed just two earned runs in 12.0 innings this season. Allison Blackwood (0-1) suffered the loss in the first game, giving up four earned runs on eight hits in 5.2 innings. She walked one and struck out two.

Kim Adams (1-0) limited the Bulldogs to just five hits in seven innings though she walked five and the Bucs committed a pair of errors. CU left eight players on base, including six in scoring position. Michelle McEachron (0-1) took the loss in the second game, allowing three runs on two hits in one inning.

In the first game Amy Gracia and Sammi Canizaro both singled with one out in the third inning for CBU and Taylor Rosa-Ramon was hit, loading the bases. One run came across on an error and another scored on a fielder's choice on a play when the Bulldogs did not record an out. Olivia Kegler's groundout plated the third run of the inning for a 3-0 edge.

CU got a run back in the fifth when Victoria Bennett and Autumn Collins both singled and Lavery was hit, loading the bases. Caity Gray recorded an RBI with a groundout.

But the Buccaneers pushed the lead back to three with a solo homer in the bottom of the inning from Jennifer Gonzalez.

Nicholson belted her first home run of the day with one out in the sixth, but the CBU answered with five runs in the bottom of the inning.

Adams drew a leadoff walk before a two-out triple by Rosa-Ramon. Joiner then singled home a run before consecutive walks loaded the bases. Rachel Kelly's single to rightfield, plating two runs, and the final run came across on a wild pitch.

Lavery and Blackwood both walked in the seventh inning and Sydney Broderick singled, with Lavery scoring on an error by Gonzalez in leftfield.

In the second game Lavery walked to leadoff and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Gray. Broderick's single to center plated Lavery before Nicholson's two-run blast to center gave the Bulldogs a 3-0 lead after a half inning.

Canizaro and Rosa-Ramon both singled for CBU in the bottom of the inning, but Maynard induced a groundout and a strikeout to end the threat.

The Buccaneers got on the board in the second when Kelly walked with two outs. Nikki Story beat a grounder in front of the plate, but Kacy Hobbs' throw to second went high and ended up going all the way to the wall, allowing Kelly to score. CBU had just two singles and one runner reach on an error in the final four innings.

CU added a run in the fifth inning when Lavery and Gray both reached on errors by Kelly at shortstop and Blackwood followed with an RBI double.

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