

Kinnaird, McBeain shine for No. 2 Eagles

Written by Jim Ecker

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Angie McBeain is technically the No. 2 pitcher for the Kirkwood softball team, but that's more of a designation than a true ranking.

The truth is, the second-ranked Eagles have two star pitchers.

Lexi Kinnaird, a sophomore and one of the most successful pitchers in school history, pitches the first game of Kirkwood doubleheaders and thus is listed as the No. 1 pitcher.

McBeain, a freshman and a rising star, normally pitches the second game of doubleheaders and thus is the No. 2 pitcher, but only because she has to wait her turn.

Kinnaird, who leads the nation in victories and strikeouts, has a 20-2 record and 1.27 earned run average, with 204 strikeouts and only nine walks in 132 innings.

McBeain, who has never lost a game in college, is 16-0 with a 1.48 ERA, with 93 strikeouts and only 20 walks in 80 1/3 innings.

The dynamic duo worked their magic again Monday.

Kinnaird tossed a four-hit shutout as the Eagles blanked 16th-ranked Iowa Lakes, 7-0, in the

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first game of their twinbill at the Kirkwood field.

McBeain, who pitched a perfect game in her last outing, tossed a one-hitter this time as the Eagles won the nightcap, 12-0, in five innings.

The sweep lifted Kirkwood to 41-2 overall and 19-1 in the ICCAC conference. Iowa Lakes fell to 28-13 overall and 13-9 in the league.

Iowa Lakes split a doubleheader with Kirkwood when the teams met in Estherville April 2, but Kinnaird and McBeain did not give the Lakers any room to breathe Monday.

Morgan Frost went 3-for-4 with three doubles in the 7-0 victory in the opener. Taylor Nearad collected two doubles and scored two runs. Maddie Hansen, who leads the nation with 70 RBIs, had two hits and two RBIs for the Eagles.

Lexi Ferrari hit a home run and McBeain had two doubles in the second game.