



Staff photo by Joseph DeBell

ABOVE: Brunswick's Maya Lowery connects for a home run during Monday's game against Middletown at Middletown High School.
 BELOW: Brunswick pitcher Cassidy Barnhouse (13) delivers during the Railroaders' victory.

SOFTBALL

LONGBALL LOWERY



Railroaders freshman stays hot, clouts fifth homer to help hold off Knights

■ **Brunswick 11, Middletown 8**

By **JOHN CANNON**
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MIDDLETOWN — When Brunswick freshman Maya Lowery was intentionally walked in the seventh inning of Monday's softball game against Middletown, someone in the stands said, "That's gonna happen to her now a lot."

The newcomer was Frederick County's leading home run hitter last week, and she started this week off by adding to that total.

Lowery's two-run shot, her fifth varsity homer this season, and junior pitcher Cassidy Barnhouse's ability to grind out a complete game helped the Rail-

roaders rebound from back-to-back lopsided losses by beating the host Knights 11-8.

Coming off losses to local powers Catoclin and Boonsboro by a combined 28-0, a gritty win against a quality team like Middletown was just what the young Railroaders (6-5) needed. No wonder a fired-up Barnhouse hugged catcher Aeriana Carter after getting the game-ending strikeout.

"It means a lot," Barnhouse said of the victory. "We knew that we had a rough past couple of games and just pushed the pedal today."

Lowery did her share of pushing, blasting a homer over the left

(See **LOWERY B2**)

Lowery longball

(Continued from B1)

field fence to give Brunswick a 4-1 lead in the second inning against a Middletown team that had only given up that many runs in an entire game once all season long.

In Brunswick's previous win against Francis Scott Key last Tuesday, Lowery had two homers, including a walk-off grand slam. Had Railroaders coach Ronnie Stewart heard about the hard-hitting third baseman before she arrived in high school?

"I'm new in Brunswick. I really don't know many of the kids," Stewart said. "But I've been hearing about her since I got here, and we've

got more coming next year that are like her."

When weather robbed Brunswick of varsity games earlier this year, Lowery played for the JV team and hit two more homers.

She's one of two freshmen in the heart of Brunswick's order, joining cleanup hitter Addison Eye. On Monday, Lowery had two hits and reached on an error that plated a run in the fifth, the last time she was pitched to.

Lowery began playing softball about 10 years ago, although she took a break to focus on another sport that couldn't be more different — gymnastics. Has she always hit for power?

"Yeah, I mostly grew up with it," she said. "It's just natural."

Conversely, Barnhouse is a pitcher that eschews power.

"I call her our dog. She battles every time she pitches, and if we can put up good defense behind her, she pitches to contact, she's not a power pitcher," Stewart said. "She sets ev-

erything up with her change-up, and her change-up tonight was brilliant, and it set up everything for her fastball. She's a gamer."

Even without leading hitter Hayden Moxley, who didn't play because she was ejected in Friday's loss to Boonsboro, Middletown still mustered offense that, on any other day this season, would've been more than enough.

Madalyn Anthony hit a grand slam to center that gave the Knights a 5-4 lead in the third. But the Railroaders quickly regained the lead, scoring four runs in the fourth on a rally highlighted by Juliette Bel's RBI double.

"That's the most runs we've given up by far all year," Middletown (6-4) coach Charley Toms said. "Our defense has been our shining point all year. Adria [Janse Van Rensburg] struggled a little bit, but overall did a good job. The defense just — the wheels fell off that wagon."

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