

La Broquerie wins fast pitch zone 13 championship

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Defence wins championships – the all-too-common saying rang true on Thursday when the Ecole St Joachim/Ecole Real-Berard Braves defeated the Steinbach Regional Secondary School Sabres in the Zone 13 Fastball Championships.

The Braves won the game 12-2 in six innings to secure themselves a spot at provincials this weekend.



ALEX LAMBERT THE CARILLON - Steinbach's Denielle Sawatzky gets tagged out by tight La Broquerie defence.

St Joachim made smart plays throughout the game, including in the fourth inning, where the team turned what looked to be a simple ground out into a double play.

With the ball hit to the shortstop, the Braves sent the ball to first base for one out, with the team staying alert and throwing back across the diamond to throw out a Steinbach runner who was trying to advance to third.

Coach Pat Tétrault said the victory came down to the girls' ability to bend but not break.

"All the girls put it together," said Tétrault. "We knew we had the bats that would come alive, it's just a matter of getting the outs to be able to come back to bat."

Starting pitcher Annabelle Tétrault not only pitched a complete game in this final but also threw in all four games in the tournament. The Grade 10 student led the team to wins of 10 or more runs in three of their games while only conceding four runs in the tournament, all to SRSS.

"Annabelle did great, she pitched another gem for us, knowing full well we had good defence," said coach Tétrault.

He said the team focused on playing tight defence to be able to win the game.

"We knew we were going to face some adversity and they'd put us in situations where we're going to have to make some outs," Tétrault said. "In the end our defence made the plays we needed them to do."

Provincials run May 31 and June 1 in Portage la Prairie. SRSS, and semi-finalists Landmark and Ecole Heritage had a chance at making it to provincials through a wildcard berth, but were not selected.