



Maddie Smith/C&amp;S Media

**Emily Autrey** makes a diving attempt at a tag at the plate. The Lady Panthers will look to bounce back after a rough week with home games against Greenville and Sherman.

## Princeton softball hits rough patch in district

By Austin Smith  
sports@csmmediatexas.com

Through three games of the district schedule, the Lady Panthers had been flying high with a record of 2-1. However, that ride hit a bumpy road last week with losses to Lovejoy and Melissa.

The two teams each currently sit atop the District 13-5A standings, with only thing separating them being Melissa's 8-1 win in the head-to-head matchup. Still, Princeton entered those two games with a chance to prove they could compete with the top teams in the group.

Unfortunately, things did not go well for the girls. On Tuesday, March 19, the Lady Panthers hosted Lovejoy with both teams coming into the matchup with just one loss.

However, it didn't take long for the Lady Leopards to take control of the contest. After a pop up to start the game, Lovejoy's second hitter smacked a home run over the right field wall to open the scoring.

From that point on, they girls

consistently made hard contact. Even some outs came in fortunate situations where a hard-hit ball was right at a Princeton defender. Overall, Hallie Day and Fallon Dickerson did a good job throwing strikes, only walking two of the 33 batters they faced.

Still, Lovejoy's hitters were in top form on this day. After the Lady Panthers were fortunate to get out of the first inning with just one run coming across the plate, they gave up seven more in the second, including six before recording the first out of the frame.

It just wasn't Princeton's day as they saw the Lady Leopards tally up 15 hits for 13 runs. Meanwhile, senior Emily Autrey's walk in the bottom of the first inning produced the Lady Panthers' only baserunner of the day.

Following the 13-0 loss, the girls traveled to Melissa on Friday night for a matchup with the Class 5A's top-ranked Lady Cardinals. Melissa came into the game with a record of 21-1-1, and unfortunately, Princeton



Maddie Smith/C&amp;S Media

**Hallie Day (14)** and the Princeton Lady Panthers had a rough patch with a pair of hot-hitting opponents last week. The girls lost to Lovejoy and Melissa to drop to 2-3 in district play.

wasn't able to do much to slow them down.

Once again, it was a case of the Lady Panthers taking on a team with a talented lineup of

hitters. Day and Dickerson combined for just three walks, forcing the Lady Cardinals to put the ball in play.

Needless to say, Melissa did

just that. They connected for 13 hits, helping to tally 17 runs on the night. That's the most Princeton has given up this season.

As for the Lady Panthers,

the bats stayed cold in this one. Once again, the girls were held without hit, with Autrey being the only player to reach base in the 17-0 loss.

However, Princeton will look to rebound this week with a pair of district contests. They closed out the first half of the district schedule on Tuesday, March 26 with Greenville in town.

A victory against the winless Lady Lions, would put Princeton in sole possession of fourth place at the midway point. Due to print deadlines, the story for that contest will be included in next week's issue of The Princeton Herald.

Next up, they will look to get some revenge on the Lady Bearcats with Sherman coming to town on Thursday, March 28. The Lady Panthers dropped their district-opener against Sherman by a score of 11-0.

Still, not only would a win break them out of their current slump, but it could also be a key factor in who takes third place in the group. First pitch is at 6:45 p.m.

## Lady Farmers fall to Community, crush Caddo Mills

By Seth Dowdle  
sports@csmmediatexas.com

The Farmersville Lady Farmers split their two games last week against Community and Caddo Mills.

The first contest on Tuesday, March 19 versus Community was a back-and-forth affair that resulted in a 5-4 defeat for the Lady Farmers (12-8, 3-1 District 13-4A) first loss against a district foe.

Farmersville started the scoring in the bottom of the first with a two-out steal of home by Jamie Varga.

However, some unfortunately-timed errors gave Community a 4-1 advantage of their own. Still, after losing the lead to a pair of two-run rallies, Farmersville fought their way back into it in the bottom of the fifth.

Breelynn Pollard started the inning with a single, which was followed by a walk by Varga. Bella Holland walked to load the bases, bringing Carleigh Deeds to the plate. Deeds delivered a clutch single that scored two runs, bringing Farmersville within one run.

With nobody out, Cecily Sandoval tied the game with a double to left field that scored Holland and put two runners in scoring position. Farmersville looked primed to take the lead, especially after Destiney Madewell walked to load the bases once again.

Unfortunately for the Lady Farmers, Deeds was caught stealing home and Alyssa Smith and Kaylie Casados both grounded out, ending the inning before Farmers-

ville could score another run.

From there, Community broke the 4-4 tie in the top of the seventh with a solo homer. In the bottom of the frame, Farmersville threatened with a two-out walk by Madewell, but couldn't bring her home, falling 5-4.

However, Farmersville recovered quickly from the loss with a 16-1 blistering of Caddo Mills on Monday, March 25. Originally scheduled for Friday, rain bumped the game to Monday, with the two teams meeting at Community High School in Nevada.

Holland led the Farmers with five RBIs on three hits, including a three-run homer in the bottom of the second.

The Lady Farmers scored 12 runs in the first three innings and notched 18 hits on the evening. Varga bounced back with a strong four inning performance where she only allowed one hit and one earned run. She struck out six and walked two. She also racked up three hits and scored four runs.

With the 16-run performance, the Lady Farmers have now scored 12 or more runs in five of their last six games. The lone exception was the 5-4 defeat to Community.

Farmersville continued district play with a game on Tuesday, March 26 at Sunnyvale. Due to print deadlines, coverage of the Lady Farmers game against Sunnyvale on Tuesday, March 26 will be available in the April 4 issue of The Farmersville Times.

Next up, they will travel to Ferris on Tuesday, April 2. First pitch is at 6:30 p.m.



Maddie Smith/C&amp;S Media

**Carleigh Deeds (6)** connects for one of her three hits against Caddo Mills. The Lady Farmers bounced back from their first district loss with a dominant win to move to 3-1 in the group.



Maddie Smith/C&amp;S Media

**Cecily Sandoval (12)** slides into third during Farmersville's 16-1 victory over Caddo Mills on Monday. Sandoval went 3-4 in the contest, driving in four runs for the Lady Farmers.