

# West Side Leader SPORTS

■ In this week's Outdoors column, John Winkelman writes about deer hide tanning and how it can benefit veterans of the military. Go to [myleaderpaper.com](http://myleaderpaper.com).

## Condition red: Lions 6-0 in pool

By Russell Korando  
For the Leader

The Northwest softball team is making quite a splash in the Red pool.

After beating Fox 14-3 on Sept. 25, the Lions improved to 6-0 in pool play. The Red pool is the second grouping, under the top-tier Yellow pool, in the new St. Louis Suburban Association sport-by-sport competitive alignment.

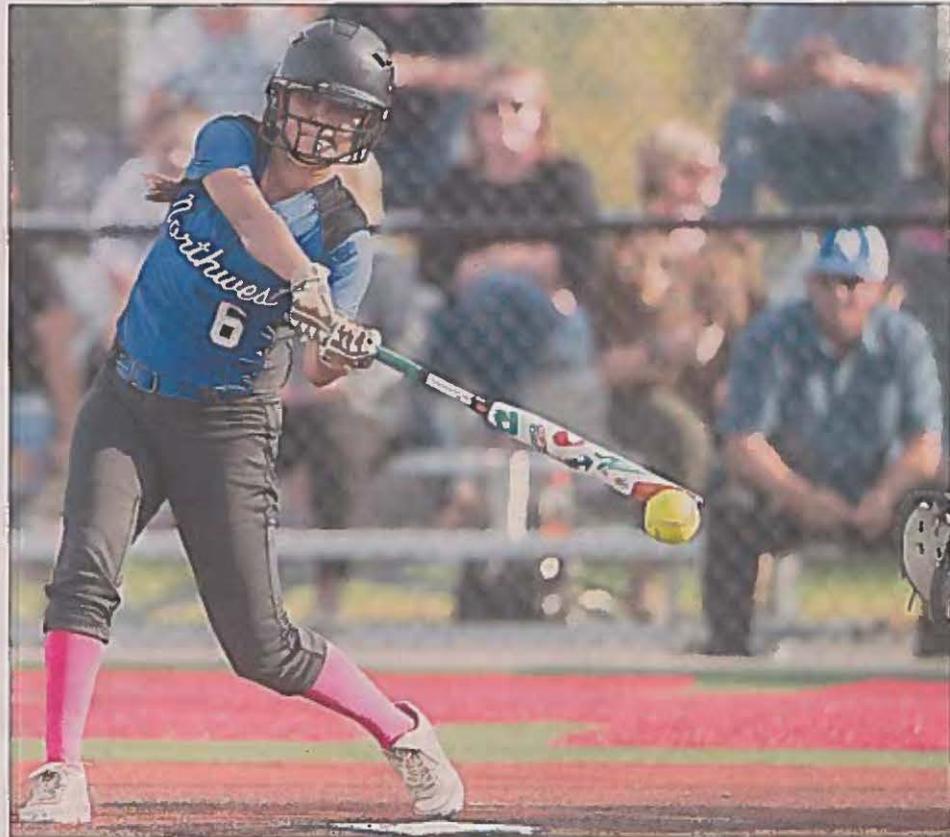
Freshman Alexi Sanchez had four hits in four at-bats and scored four runs for Northwest. Sanchez's first hit was a double off of Fox starting pitcher Lauren Duff with two outs in the second inning. Second baseman Rachel Harris and shortstop Anastasia Baer had just turned a double play for the Warriors (12-10, 3-2) when Sanchez woke up the Lions.

Senior Jordan Owens smacked a double, Sanchez scored and Northwest (12-7) led 1-0. Junior Maddie Welker whacked a third consecutive two-bagger for the Lions, driving in Owens to make it 2-0. Sophomore Vanessa Cardenas singled and scored on sophomore Sara Roth's two-run double, giving Northwest a 4-0 lead.

"I fell behind with one strike, but I attacked (Duff) and got on base," Sanchez said. "I realized there were two outs and I knew we had to start scoring so we could win this game."

"Alexi had a great at-bat," Northwest head coach Dan Davison said. "They threw her a changeup and she kept her hands back and hit the ball up the middle. She's been doing that for us all year."

Welker walked the first batter she faced, then retired the next nine. She



Ron Rigdon photo

Northwest's Alexi Sanchez had four hits and scored four runs in the Lions' victory over Fox in Arnold on Sept. 25. To see more photos, go to [myleaderpaper.com](http://myleaderpaper.com).

struck out six in six innings, walked five and allowed three earned runs.

"She keeps batters uncomfortable at the plate and works in and out a lot," Davison said. "She gets better as the game goes on."

The Lions plated four more runs in the third. Sophomore Emily Bausworth, Sanchez and Owens all singled off of Duff to start the uprising. All three advanced a

base and Bausworth and Sanchez scored on an error. Owens scored on a single by Welker and Cardenas singled and came home on a fielder's choice by sophomore Jenna Roth to give the Lions an 8-0 lead.

Welker struck out two of the three batters she faced in the third and Northwest moved to close out the Warriors

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### The County Line

Russell Korando



## Nagel is gradually regaining control after heart attack

Ashleigh Nagel almost lost it all on July 16.

Nagel, the varsity girls volleyball coach and teacher at Jefferson High, and her two children, Carson, 9, and Evelyn, 7, were shopping that day at a strip mall in Ballwin.

On their way to the car, Nagel collapsed in the parking lot with a heart attack. As fate would have it, a physical therapy business was only steps away. Within seconds, an employee from there started administering cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Nagel, 42, didn't have a pulse. She estimates she received CPR for 18 minutes before arriving at Mercy Hospital St. Louis in Creve Coeur. She had 100 percent blockage in an artery in her heart.

Her parents, she said, also suffer from heart disease.

On Sept. 27, a recovering Nagel attended the Jefferson-Festus volleyball match, a rousing contest that lived up to the intensity of the moment and the stel-

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Leader

# Softball: Northwest could meet Seckman in Class 4 districts

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early with two more runs in the fourth inning. Senior Amie Schubert relieved Duff before the fourth and retired the first batter she faced, but Bausworth doubled, Sanchez singled and both were driven in by Owens' two-run single.

"Northwest swung the bats really well. Coach Davison has done a great job," Fox head coach Chris Starkey said. "They kept putting pressure on us and we made mistakes we couldn't come back from."

The first four Fox batters reached safely against Welker in the bottom of the fourth. Baer singled and moved up two bases on two wild pitches. She came home on senior Grace George's single to cut the Lions' lead to 10-1. After Duff walked, George scored on Schubert's RBI single.

More two-out hitting led to Northwest's 11th run in the fifth. Senior Kaili Edler singled, courtesy runner Stella Woelfel stole second base and scored on a single by junior Jaimie Lee. The Warriors returned the favor in the bottom of the inning when freshman Brooke Loveall got aboard via a fielder's choice and scored on George's single.

The game ended under the mercy rule in the sixth when Sanchez singled, Welker doubled and Cardenas hammered a two-run homer. Welker set Fox down 1-2-3 in the bottom of the inning.

"I'm happy for (Cardenas) because she's been hitting into hard luck lately," Davison said. "She hit one about 200



Ron Rigdon photos

Northwest's Sarah Roth bunts for a hit against Fox in last week's game.

feet (against Lindbergh) to dead center field. You felt like that (home run) was coming."

Sanchez leads the Lions in hitting with an average of .485. Four other Northwest players are above .400 so far - Sarah Roth, .413; Edler, .417; Owens, .429 and Jenna Roth, .469.

"We have a team that grinds their at-bats and plays tough for seven innings," Davison said. "We played seven hard innings (Monday) against Lindbergh (a 9-8 loss). Our kids showed a lot of heart. We talked about being ready from the first

pitch today and I think we were."

The Warriors started off 2-5, but were 8-2 in their last 10 games before playing the Lions. They have wins against Kirkwood and Webster Groves this year. Duff is crushing the ball with a team high 11 home runs and 42 RBIs.

"She missed a couple spots today, but overall she's been throwing well," Starkey said of his top pitcher. "She hadn't had one of these outings in awhile. She'll regroup and be ready for the next game."

District tournaments begin next week with Northwest at Jackson for Class 4



Jordan Owens, of the Lions, slaps for a hit against Fox last week.

District 1 and Fox going to Lindbergh in Class 4 District 2.

Seckman is in District 1 with the Lions and the Jaguars (14-3) are playing their best softball of the season after winning five games in five days last week. Northwest beat Seckman 6-3 on Sept. 17 behind a three-run bomb by Edler, two hits and two RBIs by Lee and a complete game by Welker.