

Late Heroics Help Cheshire Claim 2021 SCC Softball Championship

West Haven, CT - Bri Pearson is another in a long line of Cheshire stars in the circle and at the plate. Pearson had a clutch hit and helped turn a key double play to lead the Rams to a pulsating 5-4 win over Amity to win the 2021 SCC softball championship.

It was a game pitting the top two seeds in the tournament as well as teams ranked in the top 10 and who had won a combined 36 of the 41 games they had played in 2021, including splitting a pair of regular-season matches.



After delivering the go-ahead RBI on a single in the bottom of the fifth inning, Pearson had to work herself out of a jam in the top of the seventh inning.

Amity's Grace Carrington raced all the way to third base following a Ram error to start the inning. Pearson then snared a line drive off the bat of Kelly Pritchard and immediately saw that Carrington was too far off third. A perfect throw led to a double play and eventually the Rams fourth SCC crown in the last five seasons.

"I kind of just reacted, I almost dropped the ball," Pearson told GameTimeCT.com. "It was a huge play and it took the momentum back. ... it was like slow motion coming at me."

A back and forth affair saw the lead change hands four times. Pearson gave Cheshire a 1-0 lead with an RBI single in the bottom of the first inning.

Amity, the only SCC team to beat Cheshire this season, then took a 2-1 lead with a pair of runs in the third inning on an Olivia Greco two-run, two-out single.

Cheshire was able to retake the lead with a three-run bottom of the third inning, capitalizing on a pair of Spartan errors and a perfect squeeze bunt from Trinadey Santiago.

Sydney Manzione and Juliette Zito then produced runs for Amity in the top of the fourth inning to even the game at 4-4.

Then Pearson showed why she was named the SCC Player of the Year by coming through for her team twice to lead Cheshire to a win.

Cheshire improved to 20-2 with the win, while Amity fell to 17-3. The two teams could meet for the fourth time in the quarterfinal round of the upcoming Class LL state tournament.

COACH'S QUOTE

"At the end of the day, this is the environment sports is all about, that back-and-forth competitiveness," Cheshire coach Kristine Drust told GameTimeCT.com. "That's what we prepare for, what we literally talk about since day one." She added, "Our word this year was just gratitude, to show up every day with gratitude," Drust said. "We have to enjoy this, You never know what is going to happen these days."

Cheshire 5, Amity 4

Amity 002 200 0 — 4 8 2

Cheshire 103 010 x — 5 5 2

Batteries: Kelly Pritchard and Jill Ciccarelli; Bri Pearson and Trinadey Santiago.