

# THE LIVING ROOM TIMES

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## 20-0, 4 to go

### Softball Indians finish regular season unbeaten, will be #1 seed in Class LL

April	8	1-0 — Newington 16, Farmington 0
	9	
	10	
	11	
	12	2-0 — Newington 11, Maloney 0
	13	3-0 — Newington 11, Lyman Hall 3
	14	4-0 — Newington 3, Rockville 2
	15	
	16	5-0 — Newington 18, New Britain 7
	17	
	18	
	19	6-0 — Newington 4, Platt 1
	20	
	21	
	22	
	23	
	24	
	25	7-0 — Newington 4, Bristol Eastern 2
	26	Ranked #9 in the state
	27	
	28	
	29	8-0 — Newington 6, Bristol Central 1
	30	
May	1	
	2	9-0 — Newington 9, Southington 6
	3	Ranked #3 in the state
	4	10-0 — Newington 14, Manchester 1
	5	
	6	11-0 — Newington 17, Maloney 0
	7	
	8	
	9	Ranked #1 in the state
	10	12-0 — Newington 10, New Britain 3
	11	13-0 — Newington 7, Platt 1
	12	14-0 — Newington 9, Conard 1
	13	
	14	
	15	15-0 — Newington 6, Bristol Eastern 0
	16	Ranked #2 in New England
	17	
	18	16-0 — Newington 17, Bulkeley 0
	19	17-0 — Newington 24, Bulkeley 0
	20	18-0 — Newington 6, Southington 1; Clinch CCC South championship
	21	
	22	Ranked #25 in the nation
	23	19-0 — Newington 1, East Lyme 0
	24	20-0 — Newington 3, Bristol Central 0
	25	

When it was all over, there was no wild celebration — no yelling, no hugging, no hooting. No shock, no amazement, no ecstatic disbelief.

When Lindsay Windish threw the third strike of the final out of the seventh inning Wednesday night, wrapping up Newington's 3-0 Senior Night win over Bristol Central and finishing the Indians' 20-0 regular season, a casual observer might not have guessed, judging by the Newington players' reactions, that a game had even ended. The scene looked more like the end of the third or fourth inning of a midseason contest than the final out of the final game of a perfect season.

But then, why *should* they celebrate like mad? The Indians *knew* they could do this. They were merely finishing the job they started on Opening Day.

"They're not surprised by their accomplishments," Indians head coach Anne McKernan said. "They're confident that they can do what they want to do."

Next on the "to do" list: winning a state championship.

"We're excited we won the game, but we know we're capable of a lot more, and we

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Above: Taylor Bengtson high-fives Lindsay Windish after Windish ended the game and completed the Indians' 20-0 regular season with a strikeout, her seventh of the game.*

#### State tournament schedule

**Pairings announced:** Friday, May 28  
**First round:** Tuesday, June 1 (Indians will likely have a bye, and thus won't have to play a first-round game.)  
**Second round:** Wednesday, June 2 at Newington  
**Quarterfinals:** Friday or Saturday, June 4 or 5 at neutral site  
**Semifinals:** Tuesday or Wednesday, June 8 or 9 at SCSU  
**Championship game:** Saturday, June 12 at Falcon Field

#### Projected Top 5 seeds in Class LL

1. Newington (20-0) — ranked #1 in state poll
- 2 or 3. Amity-Woodbridge (19-1) — ranked #2
- 2 or 3. Westill-Stamford (19-1) — ranked #4
4. Stamford (18-2) — unranked
5. Norwich Free Academy (17-3) — ranked #9

# Indians earn 20th win of perfect regular season

## Towering Fortuna homer in sixth seals the deal

*(Continued from page 1)*

know we have a lot more— we still have two weeks of softball left to play,” said co-captain Jenn Castelhana after Thursday’s game.

“We’ve just got to keep going,” stated fellow senior Sara Rzeszutek. “We can think about now now, but we can’t think about being 24-0 until we’re 24-0.”

20-0 sounds quite all right for the moment, thank you very much.

“It’s something I’ve been thinking about all season long,” Castelhana said of the 20-0 mark, “and I’m glad it actually happened.”

“It’s awesome,” Jessica Fortuna said. “Everyone’s worked so hard. It’s just great to have it end up this way.”

It was Fortuna who had the largest offensive role in adding that twentieth win to the Indians’ impressive resumé Wednesday night. After Taylor Bengtson doubled home the first run of the game with two out in the bottom of the fifth, Fortuna came to the plate with no outs and a runner on first in the bottom of the sixth — and got the pitch she’d been waiting for all year.

“She’s been talking about it all season: ‘I’m going to hit one out of Volunteer, I’m going to hit one out of Volunteer,’ ” said Castelhana, referring to the stadium—Volunteer Field—at which Wednesday’s Senior Night game was played. Unlike the Indians’ normal home field, Volunteer has a outfield fence, so it is possible to hit an outside-the-park home run there. “And she did it,” Castelhana added.

Did she ever. Fortuna blasted Michelle Hannon’s 1-1 fastball so far into center field that some fans speculated, long after the game had ended, that the ball was just then landing — somewhere in another state, perhaps.

“It’s been a dream of mine forever” to hit a homer out of fenced-in Volunteer Field, “and it felt so nice to do that,” Fortuna said. “It was a fastball down the middle, and I was waiting for it all night.”

The Indians had earlier escaped from trouble in the top of the fifth, when the game was still scoreless, as a two-out single, a stolen base and an errant throw trying to stop the steal put a Bristol Central runner on third base with two down and a 1-1 count on the hitter. But two consecutive strikes from Windish ended the at-bat and the inning.

Newington staged a two-out rally of its own in the bottom of the fifth, as speedy Stephanie Toohey bunted her way onto first base with two out. Toohey broke for second with the 0-1 pitch to Taylor Bengtson, but Bengtson made it easy, lobbing the ball into left field for an RBI double. The Indians had all the margin they would need: 1-0. One inning later, Fortuna would add the icing.

Final score: Newington 3, Bristol Central 0. Newington 20, opponents 0. On to the state tournament.

“I feel just like the kids do,” McKernan said when asked about going undefeated. “It’s been a long time in coming to get this far. We started out, years ago, not all that good— in fact, pretty bad. And we’ve built and built and built, and we’ve gotten some teams that were pretty good over the years. And now, we have that team that, all the things are coming together.”

The keys to success in the “second season” for Newington? “Keep working on the hitting. We’re going to see great pitching,” McKernan said. And “stay focused, take it one game at a time, because hopefully there’s four ahead of us.”



*Above: As pinch runner Colleen Duggan looks on, batter Jess Fortuna blasts a two-run shot out of the park to give the Indians a 3-0 lead. Below: Fortuna enjoys her home-run trot around the Volunteer Field bases, a much-dreamed-about moment for her.*

