

Pitcher takes pitch for team in victory

Detroit Catholic Central junior pitcher Mark Cole was hit by a pitch on his throwing hand Saturday in a Division I regional championship game. Birmingham Groves and, oddly enough, it helped him win, not lose to Redford Union.

RU sophomore Mike Mack put Cole on base after hitting the ring finger of his left hand with a pitch, leading to the eventual winning run in the fourth inning of a 6-1 victory over the Panthers.

Cole shook off the sting and remained in the game, throwing a three-hitter over six innings. He was lifted after walking Clint Stroble and Mike Taylor, but reliever Anthony Tomey struck out the only two batters he faced to end the game and earn the save.

"The first thing I thought was 'Which hand was it?'" CC coach John Salter said. "It didn't seem to bother him. He just got a little tired."

Cleanup hitter Casey Rogowski led CC's seven-hit attack with two, including a double, and three RBI. Leadoff man Bob Malek had two doubles and scored twice.

The score was tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the fourth when Rogowski led off with a walk and was sacrificed to second on a bunt by Chris Woodruff. Cole was hit by a pitch, which caused some controversy because it sounded like the ball may have hit the bat as well.

Rogowski and Cole moved into scoring position on a groundout by Tomey and scored on John Hill's single to break a 1-1 tie.

Cole took off his batting glove after the game to reveal the bruise that was forming at the tip of his ring finger.

"It's just a little battle scar," he said. "I knew it hit me, so I took off. It doesn't bother me at all. They give you a free base. I can hit another time."

RU coach Rick Berryman didn't disagree as much with the hit-batsman call as he did with the way it was called. The second base umpire had signaled the ball hit the bat after misinterpreting the home plate umpire's call.

"It was a key play in the game, and the umpire was on an ego trip," Berryman said. "He wanted to make the game about him, and that's not the way you play the game."

The Shamrocks finished the scoring in the fifth inning with a two-run double by Rogowski.

The Shamrocks advanced to the final with a 20-7 victory over U-D Jesuit in the semifinal. Nine runs by the Shamrocks in the third inning broke the game open. Winning pitcher Tony Nowowski improved to 9-1 but wasn't his sharpest, allowing five hits, four walks and striking out one in 3 1/2 innings.

Tomey came on in the fourth when U-D was threatening and got two outs to end the inning after walking the first batter he faced. Dan Duffey pitched a perfect fifth, and the mercy rule ended the game.

Woodruff had three hits, all for extra bases, including two in one inning. He hit a double and a triple to lead in three runs in the third and added a home run for a five-RBI game. Malek was 3-for-5 with four RBI.

Woodruff powers CC into semis

How dominant was Detroit Catholic Central junior Chris Woodruff in a Division I baseball quarterfinal game Tuesday against Warren DeLaSalle?

Enough that the only time DeLaSalle could get him out was after he reached base.

Woodruff hit a pair of home runs, including a grand slam in the fourth inning, leading the Shamrocks to a 10-2 victory at Kite-Monroe Field in St. Clair Shores.

Woodruff reached base on an error in the second inning and his courtesy runner was picked off by DeLaSalle starter Erik Lauretti. Woodruff walked in his other trip to the plate.

The win sends the Shamrocks to the Final Four in Battle Creek for the second time in four years. They meet Saline at 5:30 p.m. Friday in C.O. Brown Stadium. The championship game will be played at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

It must be something about DeLaSalle pitching. Woodruff has hit six homers this year, four against the Pilots (25-14).

Woodruff's two-run homer in the third inning followed an RBI

single by cleanup hitter Casey Rogowski, giving the Shamrocks a 5-2 lead. His grand slam in the next inning followed walks to Matt Firlik and Rogowski and a single by Dave Lusky.

Woodruff was the first batter to reach junior right-hander Brian Pelgus.

Some greetings.

"I was just trying to put the ball in play," said Woodruff, who put it far out of play. "I just like to hit fastballs."

The Shamrocks collected 10 hits, nine against Lauretti, who lasted 3 1/2 innings.

"There's no easy game with that team," DeLaSalle coach Brian Kelly said. "They flat out mash the ball. They hit too well to think a leadoff home run will change the complexion of the game."

The Pilots beat the Shamrocks once in four earlier meetings, when Lauretti started and finished an 11-7 victory. Sophomore Sean Dobson gave the Pilots a good start, hitting a leadoff

homer for a 1-0 lead, and Mike Sokol accounted for the other run with a leadoff homer in the third.

But CC winning pitcher Dan Duffey recovered from the shaky start and went five innings, scattering five hits with four walks and nine strikeouts.

Duffey had prior success against DeLaSalle, striking out nine in 3 1/2 innings of a CC win in the regular season.

The two homers were the first hit against him this year.

"I used the changeup the first time this year, and it worked pretty good versus them," Duffey said. "(CC's) powerful lineup makes it a lot easier to pitch. My confidence is real high; I can sit back and relax."

To combat the left-handed pitching, CC coach John Salter inserted right-handed hitters Mark Chapman and Anthony Tomey into the lineup, and it paid off as Tomey went 2-for-3, scoring one run and driving in one run.

The seventh, eighth and ninth hitters, in fact, combined for five hits. Tomey, the seventh batter,

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the next two hitters.

"We haven't gone back to back in years, not since I've been here, and we did it twice in one game," Henson said. "It was one of those times when everyone was seeing the ball well at the same time."

"We played as well as we have all year and beat two very good teams."

That was the start of a rough day for Thomas, a hard-throwing southpaw who allowed all 12 runs on eight hits and 11 walks in five innings.

Ryan Wasielewski pitched the last two innings for the Warriors, who beat North Farmington in the other semifinal, 1-0.

"We had the table set; what can I say?" Western coach Ken Connor said. "Mike Coopersmith pitched a great first game, and we did exactly as we planned. Kevin was just off today."

Two of those pitchers weren't even in the strike zone. They were on the outside chalk part of the plate.

The Warriors (21-9) got two runs back in the top of the second with three hits and a walk. Brighten starter Chris Edwards (11-1), who allowed six of eight hits and two walks over five innings.

But the Bulldogs responded with three more runs in the bottom half on just one hit, a double by Eric Biehl, four walks, includ-

ing an intentional pass to Henson, and one error.

"All of a sudden, we're up by six," Carrow said. "That was the breaking point in the game; that was the game for us. When they scored, we didn't quit."

Brighten added a single run in the third on a walk, two wild pitches and a passed ball and finished with three in the fifth on three hits and two walks.

Henson also had an RBI single and scored three runs; Eric Biehl had two hits and three RBI, and Summerlitt hit an RBI triple in the sixth.

Brighten's Brian Wiley, the No. 9 batter, had a perfect day ruined in his last at-bat. He had walked three times and scored three runs until grounding out and going 0-for-1 officially.

Western sophomore RB Pisha was 4-for-4 with one RBI in the leadoff spot. Senior Matt Woods had two hits and one RBI, and Thomas drove in a run with a bases-loaded fielder's choice.

"Anytime you get a win over (the Warriors), it's a big win because the Western Lakes (Activator Association) is the best baseball league in the state, bar none," Carrow said.

"I'm thrilled these kids came to play today, because Thomas is a good pitcher."

Henson, who also homered against Rice, raised his season totals to 22 home runs and 83

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RBI. The latter is a state record, breaking his own mark of 80, which he set two years ago.

As the winning pitcher in the first game, Henson also became the first in state history to have 500 career strikeouts, according to Carrow. He fanned 11 Rice batters to bring his total to 506.

BRIGHTON'S BROTHER RICE 1: Drew Henson's leadoff homer broke a 1-1 tie and started a three-run fifth inning that gave the host Bulldogs a 4-1 lead.

He won the much-anticipated pitching duel with Tom Marx as both combined for 24 strikeouts. Henson (13-1) allowed just three hits and one walk. Brighton had seven hits and five walks off Marx.

Henson gave up consecutive hits in the first inning — a solo homer to Brandon Elue and a base hit by Marx. Rice's only other hit was a single by Brent LeVasseur in the fifth.

Henson had an RBI single in the bottom of the first to tie the score. The Bulldogs had four straight hits in the fifth and scored two more runs on three singles and a groundout.

Henson issued his only walk to Steve Jackson with two out in the first inning. The game took just one hour and 35 minutes to complete.

"(The win) was a big momentum boost," Carrow said. "The kids were excited about the matchup with Marx coming in here to throw."

"Brother Rice carries a certain ethnic label with it. (It's) one of the supreme athletic powers in the state. That was a big win, no question about it."

W.L. WESTERN 1, N. FARMINGTON 0: One run was all that Mike Coopersmith needed to win his pitching duel with North senior Kirk Taylor in a regional semifinal contest at Brighton.

Coopersmith's two-hit shutout included six strikeouts and just two walks.

Contrary to what some people might have thought, the Warriors weren't saving Kevin Thomas for the final game, according to Connor.

"Mike Coopersmith is an all-league pitcher," he said, adding some North fans thought the Warriors were being disrespectful by not pitching Thomas.

"Mike Coopersmith is 11-2 with a 3.79 ERA. I just wish he'd get the respect he deserves. He's won 17 games in two years with three losses."

Taylor surrendered just four hits, but opposed to the Western run. He had nine strikeouts and issued only one walk.

The Warriors scored in the fifth inning with a leadoff single by Trevor Johnson, a stolen base, wild pitch and error.

Johnson scored with one out when Nathan Aubuchon's ground ball to shortstop was fielded and dropped.

Western had runners at second and third with no outs in the fourth and Aubuchon reached third in the fifth, but it was unable to add to its score.

North's Taylor and Evan Feldman drew leadoff walks in the fifth and sixth innings and advanced to third base; however, both were left stranded there.

"We got in situations where we had runners up there, and Coopersmith did one heckuva job and we couldn't hit him," North coach Joe Horwitz said.

The Raiders (21-6) had six hits off Coopersmith in a 10-3 loss to the Warriors in early April.

"I attributed that to getting ready to go on break and bad weather," Horwitz said. "We didn't have any of those excuses Saturday. Everybody was ready; we were pitching, and he just shut us down."

"I wouldn't trade our situations with runners in scoring position with the batters we had up there. But (Coopersmith) did a job and we didn't get the hits we'd been getting all year."

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on a Blake Boesky single to pull Harrison within 2-1.

But Dedeluc sliced a double past the Harrison left fielder with two out in the bottom of the third and scored on Zak Holstein's single to give himself another two-run cushion. It was just enough.

The Eagles came out hacking the whole game. Madigan doubled to left to start the fourth, alertly took third on a chopper back to the mound and scored, after Boven was hit by a pitch, on a wild pitch.

Jared Kazmierczak reached on an error, which brought Zigouras up, so he could hit his second home run of the game and third of the day.

That second one didn't quite put it away, Majeski said, "but it gave us a comfortable lead."

"We needed it. They were ranked No. 4 in Division II in the state. Our team really came to play. It was a total team effort."

"After we should have the third out," Herrington said, "that second home run put us out of it, if you want to be honest."

"But 23-7 is the most wins we've ever had at Harrison. I thought in the first game we didn't play well at all, but we were able to get by on our hitting."

Harrison scored its final run in the sixth on a one-out triple by Boesky, plus a sacrifice fly by designated hitter Mike Head.

The Hawks got two runners on in the seventh, but Dedeluc took care of the final out himself.

Thurston was sound defensively, making two unexcused errors while making all the other plays.

"You know," Majeski said, "halfway through the season we really improved defensively."

Thurston went into the game so loose it was questionable whether the Eagles would come

undone or not.

"They were joking around before the game," Majeski said. "I told my assistant coach I was the most nervous guy out there. But we really settled down once the game started."

In the opener, Justin Lance struck out seven, spaced eight hits and survived two walks plus a hit batter.

The Eagles scored four in the third to overcome a 3-0 deficit. Bill Todd doubled one in and scored on an error, and Zigouras cleaned up the inning with his home run.

Thurston held a 7-4 lead and put the game away with four more in the sixth. Boven singled home a pair, one came in on an error and Dedeluc singled home the other.

Zach Burton started the first game for Harrison but came out after the second inning, trailing 5-1.

Zack Cornwell singled home a pair in the third, and Mike Fisher drilled a two-run homer over the left-field fence to tie the score at five.

The Hawks piled on six more in the fourth to take an 11-5 lead. Tom Judd hitting an RBI single and Cornwell following with a sacrifice fly. Harrison also got a run on an error, one on a wild pitch and two on successful double steals.

Head got a two-run single as his team put the game away with four in the fifth. Harrison outhit Allen Park, 11-10, but made four errors plus a couple more mistakes not found in the box score.

Joe Ghannam got the win for two innings of relief in which he gave up two runs. Cornwell came on to pitch the final three, giving up three runs but closing out the game nicely in the seventh.

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