Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
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Until last weekend, it had been more than a month since the Grafton Black Hawks found themselves overpowered in a baseball game.

The streak ended Friday when Germantown pounded out 13 hits, including two homers, for a 9-1 win in North Shore Conference play.

Grafton, which hadn't lost a game by more than two runs since an 11-0 setback at Whitefish Bay on May 31, grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first inning against first-place Germantown.

However, the host team responded with three runs in its half of the first and stretched the margin to 7-1 in the fourth. The four-run inning included a two-run homer by Louis Tuszynski and a solo shot by Denny Krause.

The Black Hawks' run scored on a RBI single by Kevin Scholz, whose two-out hit followed back-to-back singles by Al Nennig and Beau Benzschawel.

Ryan Anderson pitched the first five innings for the win, and reliever Tom Andrus worked the final two frames. They combined to hold the Black Hawks to six hits.

"Germantown seems to have gotten it all together — hitting, pitching and defense," Grafton coach Brian Durst said.

Germantown improved to 8-2 in NSC play and 12-7 overall. Grafton fell to 5-7 in the conference and 8-9 overall.

Hawks' comeback stuns Bulldogs

Grafton's Friday loss came on the heels of a 5-3 comeback win over Cedarburg the previous day.

The Hawks trailed, 3-2, before scoring three runs in the bottom of the fifth against Taylor Piel, one of the area's top pitchers.

Choo Weisflog started the rally with a walk, and Nennig followed with a single. After Benzschawel's flyout moved Weisflog to third, Scholz hit a sacrifice fly to tie the game.

Nate Lukas doubled to score Nennig, and Tim Grams singled home an insurance run.

Pitcher Brett Rasmussen capped a complete-game win by blanking the Bulldogs in the final two innings. It was the junior's first varsity start after being sidelined with a broken collarbone.

He scattered six hits, struck out two and walked one.

"It was a great win for us," Durst said. "I am so happy for Brett, who pitched so well. Having him on our staff gives us that much more depth."

Grafton collected nine hits off Piel, who struck out three and walked two in a complete-game effort.

Grams and Bryan Sternig each had two hits.

Grafton held a 2-0 lead after four innings, getting an RBI single by Grams in the second and a sacrifice fly from Nennig in the third.

Cedarburg did all its scoring in the fifth on a three-run double by Mike Woelky.

West Bend West 2, Grafton 0

Two runs in the first innings were all host West needed to win a pitchers' duel June 19.

Freshman pitcher Bryce Fisk was solid in a complete-game performance for Grafton but walked three batters in the opening frame. One scored on a wild pitch, and a two-out single drove home another.

The Hawks managed just three hits, all singles, off West starter Joe Stubbe, who also went the distance. Stubbe struck out eight and walked none.

Durst praised Fisk, who "did an outstanding job and kept hitters off balance most of the game."

This week, Grafton was scheduled to continue conference play by facing Slinger on Monday (see related story) and Germantown on Tuesday and hosting Port Washington on Thursday.

The Hawks will then play Homestead on the road July 2 and host Nicolet on July 3. All games start at 5:30 p.m.

Image Information: GRAFTON SHORTSTOP Robbie Doring kept his eyes on the ball as he fielded a pop-up during his team's win over Cedarburg. Photo by Sam Arendt