

Rockets click with pitching

Written by MITCH MAERSCH
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If there was ever a time for coach Scott Soerens to be thankful for a deep pitching staff, this spring is it.

His Cedar Grove-Belgium softball team can hand the ball to three strong-armed girls. With makeup games filling up the Rockets' schedule, that's a gift.



Kasie Feind, Mandi Race and Hannah Dirkse have shared pitching duties so far.

"I'm trying to divide them up a little bit with this many games. I don't want anybody getting too beat up," Soerens said.

Last week, the Rockets went 4-2 in six games. They capped the week with an 11-9 home loss to Sheboygan Lutheran/Kohler in a Central Lakeshore Conference contest Friday.

Feind pitched the first four innings, and Race worked the final three.

The previous day, Cedar Grove-Belgium swept Stockbridge in a doubleheader, 11-7 and 19-7.

In the first game, Feind pitched two innings and Dirkse four. In the second game, Race went four innings and Dirkse two.

"Hannah Dirkse picking up six innings on Thursday was huge," Soerens said.

On April 24, the Rockets split a home doubleheader against Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah. After

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losing the first game, 14-8, in eight innings, they won, 15-12.

In the second game, the Rockets trailed, 10-6, in the sixth but scored nine runs in the final two innings.

The Rockets opened the week with a 28-2 win over Living Word Lutheran on April 22.

The hectic week left Cedar Grove-Belgium with a 5-2 season record.

Due to inclement weather, the team is still getting used to playing outside, Soerens said.

"I think they're excited. I think they're ready to play. We had way too much time in the gym," he said.

"I don't think anyone's used to being on a field yet."

Soerens said his offensive standouts so far included Maria Schueller, Shelby Harmon, Cheyenne Dutter and Hannah Paulus.

This week, the Rockets were scheduled to face Living Word Lutheran in a doubleheader Monday, play Oostburg on Tuesday, travel to Random Lake for a 4:30 p.m. game Thursday, host Howards Grove at 4:30 p.m. Friday and participate in the Sheboygan County tournament at Sheboygan North at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Cedar Grove-Belgium will then play a doubleheader at Howards Grove on May 6 and a single game at Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah on May 7.

Image Information: KASIE FEIND is part of a pitching trio that helped the Cedar Grove-Belgium softball team win five of its first seven games this season. Photo by Sam Arendt