

Sweep gives Warriors a jump in CLC wars

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
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Doubleheader success puts Ozaukee baseball team at 4-0 in conference games

Don't look now, but the Ozaukee Warriors have suddenly become a serious title threat in Central Lakeshore Conference baseball.

After opening the season with a pair of nonconference losses, coach Bob Kiefer's squad turned things around quickly in CLC play.



Last week, Ozaukee won its first four league games, including a 15-5, 15-5 doubleheader sweep of Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah on Friday.

In each contest, the Warriors pounded out 15 hits and used a monster frame to take control. A seven-run fourth inning highlighted their first win, followed by a 10-run fourth in the nightcap.

"Elkhart Lake is a very young team this year, and we had some big innings against them," said Kiefer, whose team improved to 4-2 overall. "We did a great job of staying disciplined at the plate."

In the first game, Ozaukee held a 5-4 lead after three innings and won the game on the mercy rule in the sixth. Highlighting the Warriors' big fourth was a three-run double by Lee Wysocki.

For the game, Zach Beck led Ozaukee with a 3-for-3 effort. Adding two hits apiece were Wysocki, Jake Wolff, Joe Nick and Joe Schauer.

Sophomore Jeremy Wichmann pitched a complete game for the victory. He struck out seven

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and walked five.

The second game was called after five innings. Schauer went the distance, scattering five hits, striking out four and walking three.

Beck again went 3-for-3. Bares, Schauer and Jason Kunstmann each had two hits.

Earlier in the week, Ozaukee faced much tougher tests before pulling out close wins over Howards Grove and Cedar Grove-Belgium.

Ozaukee's fast start in CLC play left it tied for first place with Sheboygan Lutheran/Kohler. Although the Warriors don't have any seniors on their roster, that doesn't mean they lack experience, Kiefer noted.

"There are a number of teams with young players, but most of our juniors and sophomores have been playing varsity ball for two or three years," he said.

"Even our freshmen (Mike Richter and Nick) have stepped up and hit the ball as well as anybody."

Ozaukee 6, Cedar Grove-Belgium 5

The Warriors trailed twice before rallying to pull out a league win at home June 5.

Cedar Grove-Belgium led, 2-0, after one inning and 4-3 midway through the fifth. However, Ozaukee scored twice in the same inning and once in the sixth for a 6-4 lead.

The Rockets got one run back in the seventh before Beck escaped with a complete-game victory.

Providing key hits for Ozaukee were Schauer with a two-run double in the fifth and Bares with an RBI single in the sixth.

Beck allowed only three hits and two earned runs. He struck out two and walked three.

Ozaukee 8, Howards Grove 6

An 11-hit attack helped the Warriors secure a CLC road win June 3.

Ozaukee held a 6-0 lead after three innings. Howards Grove scored twice in each of the fourth through sixth innings, but the Warriors countered with a two-run sixth.

Finishing with two hits apiece were Richter, Nick, Wysocki, Wolff and Wichmann.

Wichmann pitched six innings for the win and also earned a save. After working the first five frames, he was relieved by Wolff in the sixth and then returned to work the seventh.

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Wichmann allowed two hits, struck out 11 and walked four.

This week, Ozaukee faced Sheboygan Lutheran/Kohler on Monday (see related story) and was scheduled to host Oostburg at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday and play a 5:30 p.m. game at Slinger on Friday.

On June 17, the Warriors will host Random Lake in a CLC doubleheader at 3:30 p.m.

Ozaukee was originally scheduled to play at Grafton on Saturday, June 15, but that game has been postponed.

Image Information: OZAUKEE'S LEE WYSOCKI connected on pitch for a hit against Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah. Photo by Sam Arendt