

Wild West rally dashes Hawks' hope for road win

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
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Late homer caps comeback that leaves Grafton baseball team on short end in West Bend

One swing of the bat helped derail the Grafton baseball team's hope of scoring a road win in a North Shore Conference game Monday.

After rallying to take a 5-3 lead into the bottom of the sixth inning, the Black Hawks watched West Bend West break loose for five runs.

West fought back to tie the game at 5-5, and moved ahead for good when Alec Steinmetz drove a pitch from reliever Dylan Mayer over the left-field fence for a three-run homer.

"It was a good game but a tough loss for us," said Grafton coach Brian Durst, whose team had its third-place record slip to 9-6.

"We thought we were in good shape heading into the bottom of the sixth, but it got away from us."

Trailing, 2-0, the Hawks came to life offensively in the middle innings.

In the Grafton fourth, Alex Nennig doubled with two outs and scored on an infield single by Mayer to make it 2-1.

In the fifth, the Hawks took a 3-2 lead on a run-scoring groundout by Kevin Scholz and a bases-loaded walk to Nennig.

West scored a run in its half of the fifth to tie the game, but Grafton answered with two runs in the top of the sixth.

Two-out RBI singles by Robbie Doring and Scholz put the Hawks up by two runs.

But East (7-9) reached starter C.J. Koehler for three hits in the bottom of the sixth, including an RBI single, and a sacrifice fly before Steinmetz's blast.

Steinmetz finished the game 3-for-4 with four RBI.

Grafton got two hits apiece from Skyler Bohn and Scholz.

Cedarburg 13, Port Washington 7

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The host Pirates rallied to make a game of it but saw Cedarburg pull away with a six-run seventh inning in NSC play Monday.

The Bulldogs (9-7) scored in each of the first three innings and built a 7-1 lead. However, Port (2-14) answered with a two-run homer by Kyle Melichar in the fifth and added three runs in the sixth to pull within 7-6.

In the seventh, Cedarburg sandwiched four hits around a Port error to regain control. Nick Boehnlein's three-run homer off reliever Taylor Devenport was the key blow for the Bulldogs.

"It was a good game until the seventh inning," Port coach Jeff Dornburg said. "We fought back to within a run, but we just couldn't seem to get any outs in the top of the seventh."

Cedarburg finished with 14 hits, led by Alex Nuelk's 4-for-4 effort and three hits by Matt Bromley.

For the Pirates, Melichar was 3-for-3 with two extra-base hits, and Nick Godersky had a solo homer.