

7-7-2012 Gold holds off Omaha

NEW ULM - Thursday night, New Ulm Legion Gold used some heroics in the bottom of the seventh with a walk-off Zach Hoffmann home run to down Lakeville South.

Friday night, Gold again used some heroics in the bottom of the seventh but this time it came via the defense.

Kevin Larson backhanded a Ray Kinsella ground ball destined for left field and his throw to second baseman Tim Kehren forced out Marc Tangeman at second.

Gold pitcher Colin Wendinger then coaxed Zach Knicky into a game-ending groundball as New Ulm improved to 2-0 in the Upper Midwest Classic with a tight 4-3 win over Omaha Gross Friday night.

Wendinger got the complete-game win. He allowed six hits and fanned three.

Kinsella took the loss for Gross. He also went the distance and permitted six hits. He struck out five.

Kehren and Hoffmann each had two hits with Hoffmann driving in three runs. Marc Tangeman and Wade Wees each had two hits for Omaha.

"What a play by (shortstop) Kevin Larson," Gold coach Bob Weier said. "Those are plays that good teams make - and good players make - to help their team out." And without that play by Larson, Omaha may well have tied the game.

Gold held a precarious 4-3 lead going into the bottom of the bottom of the seventh. After Wendinger set down Ben Peters on strikes, Marc Tangeman beat out an infield single. Kinsella followed with a ground ball to Larson's right. He backhanded the ball in the hole and his throw to Kehren at second just beat Tangeman's slide before Wendinger got the final out on a groundout.

"We talked about that play after the game," Weier said. "Colin probably did not make the play he wanted to the batter before (Tangeman). But someone has to pick each other up. That is the game of baseball. The teams that are able to do that are the teams that win these one run games. And Jory Dove also did that on the last out of the game on the ground ball."

New Ulm took a 2-0 lead with runs in the first and third innings. In the first, it was a sacrifice fly from Hoffmann.

And in the third it was singles from Dan Blackstad and Larson and a Hoffmann groundout. Gold upped the lead to 4-0 with two runs in the fifth. Blackstad reached on one of five errors by Omaha to start the inning.

Kehren beat out a one out bunt single Hoffmann collected his third RBI of the game with a double to right field. Kehren came home on a Jason Shaul groundout.

But Omaha battled back with two runs in the bottom of the fifth thanks to an RBI single from Kinsella and a wild pitch.

Gross cut the lead to 4-3 in the sixth on a Wees single, a walk to Max Connor and a Cragin Missak base hit.

"Hats off to Colin," Weier said. "He did not have his best curveball tonight -he relied on his two-seam and four-seam fastball. It is nice to be 2-0 right now."



New Ulm Legion Gold's Tim Kehren (13) slides safely into third where Josh Missak (31) of Omaha Gross waits for the ball in Gold's 4-3 win Friday.

Journal photo by Steve Muscatello

7-7-2012 Creighton bests Blue 13-2

By Daniel Kerwin - New Ulm Journal Sports Writer. Posted July 7, 2012

NEW ULM - Had the New Ulm Blue Legion baseball team given Creighton Prep, Neb., the usual number of outs on Friday, the story of the game may have turned out very differently.



However, Creighton benefitted from six New Ulm errors to score five unearned runs in a 13-2, six-inning victory in Upper Midwest Classic action at Johnson Park.

"We put six errors up on the board, and the guys know that doesn't work," New Ulm head coach Mike Munce said. "You can't give a team like this extra outs."

Dominac Camacho (five plus innings, 10 hits, 11 runs, seven earned runs, no walks, three strikeouts) was largely effective as the starting pitcher for Blue. He retired the first two batters in each of the first and second innings, but the team's inability to get the third out in either inning allowed Creighton to take a 5-0 lead heading into the third.

Camacho retired the side in order in the third, but Creighton tacked on three more runs in the fourth to take a comfortable 8-0 lead.

Legion Blue's Nathan Palmer reaches for the ball as Creighton's Taylor Elman slides into second.

Journal photo by Steve Muscatello

Creighton starter Mason Raburn (five innings pitched, five hits, two runs, two walks, five strikeouts) held New Ulm to just one hit over the first three innings - a DeAndre Parker bloop single with two outs in the second - but Blue started getting comfortable at the plate starting in the bottom of the fourth.

"Dominac threw great - I don't know if he threw a fastball all game, so he kept them off balance," Munce said. "He threw a lot of junk at them, and they didn't really know what to do with it. He did good."

Creighton starter Mason Raburn (five innings pitched, five hits, two runs, two walks, five strikeouts) held New Ulm to just one hit over the first three innings - a DeAndre Parker bloop single with two outs in the second - but Blue started getting comfortable at the plate starting in the bottom of the fourth.

"Once they'd seen the pitcher the first time through they knew it was somebody they could hit," Munce said. "We talked about being more aggressive at the plate, so any time you get two or three times on the same pitcher you can start to figure them out and put some balls in play."

Jake Stadick got things started for New Ulm in the fourth with a two-out double to the left field corner, after which Andy DeRock brought him home with a single off of the third-base bag to make the score 8-1.

Creighton added a single unearned run off of Camacho in the fifth, but Blue got the run back in the bottom of the frame. Collin Kral led off the bottom of the fifth with a walk, but Raburn proceeded to get two quick outs to leave Blue down to its last out with Nate Palmer on first.

Jake Gieseke followed with a hard-hit grounder that was mishandled by Creighton second baseman Scott Huber, after which Javen Munce (1-for-2, RBI, walk) scored Palmer with a single to make the score 9-2. Cole Dulas followed with a single to load the bases, but Raburn struck out Stadick to end the threat.

Creighton took a 13-2 lead with four runs in the sixth inning - highlighted by a two-run home run by Billy Lipari that cleared the fence in left field and sailed into the New Ulm Community Center parking lot - and Jordan Laney pitched a perfect inning in the bottom of the frame (one strikeout) to seal the victory.

Nick Dewanz came on in relief of Camacho in the sixth, allowing two hits, two runs (one earned) and striking out one in his one inning of work.

The Creighton offense was led by Alex Meisenbach (3-for-4, two runs, three RBI, two triples), Kevin Connolly (2-for-4, one run, two RBI, double, triple, stolen base) and Taylor Elman (1-for-3, two runs, four stolen bases).

"We've got Burnsville [today], they're the No. 1 team in the state, so of course our goal is to play the whole game with them, and just try and pitch good and play good defense and see what happens," coach Munce said.

7-6 Hoffmann's home run in 7th lifts Gold into first round win

Bu Jim Bastian - New Ulm Journal Sports Writer, Posted July 6, 2012

NEW ULM - In the second and fourth innings in its game with Lakeville South Thursday night, New Ulm Legion Gold saw a lead-off triple and a two-out double by Jason Shaul, respectively, go to waste as the team failed to get him home.

But in the bottom of the seventh, Gold got the key hit that it lacked in both earlier failed scoring attempts.

Zach Hoffmann drove a 3-2 fastball by Lakeville South's Tyler Schumacher deep over the fence in left field for a two-run home run to lift New Ulm Gold to a 5-3 win over Lakeville in the Upper Midwest Classic.

Matt Bergmann got the win for New Ulm. He came in relief of starter Jordan Guggisberg. Guggisberg went five innings and allowed all three runs, striking out four. Bergmann allowed just one walk in two innings.

Will Lundquist started for Lakeville. He went six innings and was charged with three runs.

Nick Pecho had two hits for Lakeville.

Shaul had three hits for Gold, with Kevin Larson and Hoffmann each collecting two hits.

New Ulm and Lakeville were knotted 3-3 in the bottom of the seventh after Gold overcame a 3-0 deficit.

Lakeville pushed across solo runs in the first three innings on a wild pitch, a Schumacher double and a Hunter Harnisch sacrifice fly, respectively.

While Lakeville was able to push across runs in the early innings, Gold was not.

In the second, Shaul led off with a double but was left there as Lundquist retired Drew Pfaff and Dan Blackstad on strikes before ending the threat by getting Erich Prokosch to ground out.

In the fourth, Shaul laced a two-out triple, but was stranded there when Lundquist fanned Pfaff to end the threat.

"That was frustrating," said Hoffmann about the failed scoring attempts. "We knew that we were facing a good pitcher and each run was valuable. We did not get the job done."

But Gold did manage to cut the lead to 3-1 in the bottom of the fifth.

Blackstad reached on an error by Lakeville second baseman Pecho. A Prokosch groundout moved him to second before Jory Dove singled in Blackstad.

Gold then knotted the game in the sixth thanks to three hits and three untimely Lakeville errors.



Tim Kehren of Legion Gold goes high to catch ball as Lakeville's Luke Sather (20) slides into second in Thursday's Upper Midwest Classic opener at Johnson Park.

Journal staff photo by Steve Muscatello

Hoffmann led off with a single to left and took second on an error on the play. Shaul then dribbled a slow roller to first baseman Jake Miller, who fielded the ball cleanly. However, his throw to Lundquist covering first sailed behind him, allowing Hoffmann to score.

A Pfaff sacrifice bunt moved Shaul to second and a Bergmann single scored him to tie the game at 3-3.

Then in the seventh, Gold got the hit that it was missing all game.

Larson led off by driving a Schumacher pitch to right field for a lead-off double.

Tim Kehren's sacrifice bunt placed Larson 90 feet away with the winning run.

Schumacher then worked Hoffmann to a 3-2 count before Hoffmann drove the next pitch over the fence in left field.

"I just wanted to get the ball deep enough in the outfield to let Kevin have a chance to tag up," Hoffmann said.

"Luckily I put a good swing on it - I was able to fight a few pitches off and did the job. This is a big comeback win for us - we battled hard, we faced a very good pitcher and we fought them to the end."

***Lakefield South/New Ulm Blue
Game Reported Following Page***

7-7-2012 Prior Lake opens classic with 8-2 win over New Ulm Blue

By Jeremy Behnke - New Ulm Journal Sports Editor , Posted July 6, 2012



New Ulm Legion Blue's Josh Kienlen waits for the ball as Prior Lake's Will Niska slides into second in the Upper Midwest Classic opener Thursday. **New Ulm Journal Staff Photo by Steve Muscatello**

NEW ULM - Despite an 8-2 loss to Prior Lake Thursday in the opening game of the 2012 Upper Midwest Classic at Johnson Park, New Ulm Blue head coach Mike Munce found plenty of positives to take over into the next few games this weekend.

Blue finished the game with eight hits and committed only one error. Although they didn't score a lot of runs, they did manage to put the ball in play and had a mini rally going late in the game, leaving the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh.

"We had one error on the board and that's pretty good," Munce said. "That's pretty much Prior Lake's starting high school team, we're New Ulm's second team and we're a lot younger than them. We battled the whole game and we couldn't really get much off their pitcher, he kept us off-balance the whole game. Some of these younger hitters struggled with it. I'm happy with the way we played, we're kind of out-matched here the whole weekend, so our goal is to stay in every game here, and we did."

Jake Stadick took the loss for New Ulm. He went the first five innings and allowed 10 hits and eight runs. He walked one and hit a batter.

Zach Fraasch earned the win, going six innings for Prior Lake. He allowed both runs and six hits. He walked one and hit a batter.

Prior Lake wasted no time scoring its first run after Sam Kortez led off with a double and came home on Fraasch's hit. Prior Lake then scored two more runs in top of the second. Jordan Larson's two-run single upped the lead to 3-0, but New Ulm scored in the bottom of the second after Cole Dulas scored on a wild pitch.

Prior Lake managed to get that run back in the top of the third when Nick Vaage singled to score Chris Sticha to make it 4-1. Sticha added a sacrifice fly in the fourth to put Prior Lake up 5-1 and Blue scored their final run in the bottom of the fourth after a Luke Cihak RBI to make it 5-2.

Prior Lake added a single run in the fifth and two more in the sixth for the final 8-2 margin. Blue did make it interesting in the bottom of the sixth after Javen Munce led off with a long double off the top of the fence in left. After advancing to third, he was later tagged out at home trying to score when a pitch was thrown in the dirt.

New Ulm then put together a two-out rally in the bottom of the seventh and loaded the bases, but Javen Munce flew out to right for the final out.

Blue (4-11) plays Creighton, Neb., at 1:30 p.m today at Johnson Park and Prior Lake (8-5) plays Sioux Falls West at 4:30 p.m. today in Essig.

Coach Munce is hoping that Blue can start strong after a strong finish on Thursday.

"They brought in a different pitcher and he gave us a different look," coach Munce said. "We put some guys in off the bench and they responded. Hopefully we can keep this rolling."