

Indians qualify for state

Posted by New Ulm Journal August 13, 2011

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Journal Sports Writer

SLEEPY EYE - Scott Salfer is a senior to be at Sleepy Eye St. Mary's and is by far the youngest starter on Sleepy Eye's team.

He played like a seasoned veteran in probably the Indians' biggest game of the season. Salfer was 4-for-4 from the ninth spot and had the game-winning hit as Sleepy Eye rallied for four runs in the bottom of the ninth to beat Lamberton 7-6.

"I just tried to stay relaxed," Salfer said. "I was in a similar situation against them earlier in the year and that just prepared me for this. It helped me stay relaxed."

With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Salfer was put in a tough spot and he came through. Salfer hit a bloop single that just fell in front of the Lamberton center fielder as Jake Bohnen and Matt Gangelhoff scored the winning runs.

Lamberton took a 6-3 lead into the ninth when Alan Woitas led off by reaching on an error, Andrew Woitas and Bohnen singled to load the bases. Then Jordan Milbrath, a draftee from Springfield, walked Gangelhoff to score Alan Woitas. Nathan Kral walked to score Andrew Woitas and put the winning run at second base with one out. Justin Helget struck out to put all the pressure on Salfer.

"We've had a lot of these games where we seem like we are out of the game late in the game," Salfer said. "We always seem to find a way to come back in the ninth. It's always fun."

Lamberton broke open a 3-3 tie in the top of the eighth. Colby Pack led off the inning with a double down the right-field line. A ground out moved him to third before Landon Erickson was intentionally walked. Next Pack scored when Ty Kaus, a draftee from St. James was charged with a balk. Isaac Jenniges singled in Erickson and Donald Strand doubled in Jenniges to make it 6-3.

That set up the late-inning heroics.

Lamberton took a 2-0 lead in the first then Sleepy Eye cut it in half with a run in the fourth. Lamberton took a 3-1 lead on solo home run by Tyler Reiner in the sixth. The Indians tied it up with two more runs in the seventh to make it 3-3.

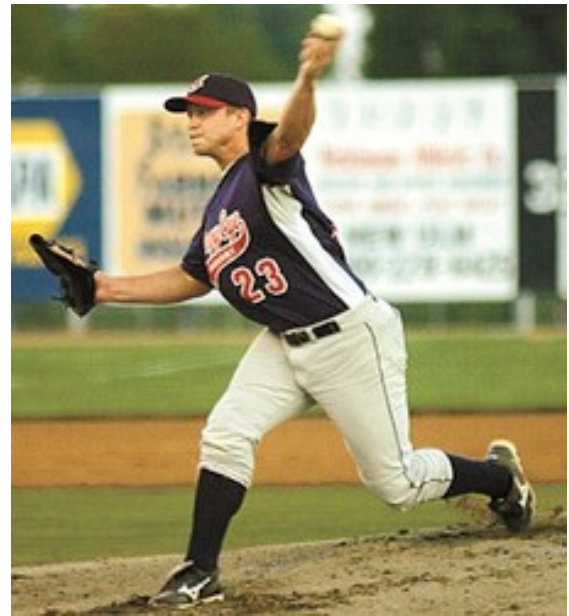
Milbrath took the loss for Lamberton as he pitched two plus innings in relief. He allowed four runs on six hits.

Johnny Pistulka pitched the first six innings and allowed two runs on four hits with four strikeouts and six walks.

Andrew Woitas earned the win for Sleepy Eye pitching 1 1/3 innings of relief. Gangelhoff pitched the first six innings and allowed three runs on five hits. Kaus pitched 1 2/3 innings and allowed three runs on four hits.

Alan and Andrew Woitas each had two hits for Sleepy Eye.

"They got a really good defense and pitching staff and can really hit the ball," Salfer said about the Lakers. They are a good team and it should be a fun game



*Journal staff photo by Steve Muscatello
Sleepy Eye starting pitcher Matt Gangelhoff
tosses a pitch during the Indians' Region 2C
playoff game against Lamberton Friday at
Sleepy Eye.*