

Press Clippings 5/17/2018

NOTE: There were no U-46 related news stories in the May 17, 2018 newspapers.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald--- 5/17/18

Baseball: Coates, Elgin even things up

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK



Elgin starting pitcher Kyle Coates delivers against Larkin at Trout Park in Elgin Wednesday.

John Starks | Staff Photographer

Both coaches lauded the way Elgin pitcher Kyle Coates competed in a 2-1 victory over Larkin at Trout Park Wednesday.

Coates was perfect through four innings of the Upstate Eight River meeting until Larkin catcher Cy Kerber doubled to right field to open the fifth. Kerber scored on Gunnar Boley's line drive double to left, which halved Elgin's lead. That was it for Larkin offensively. Coates, a sidearming junior right-hander escaped further fifth-inning damage and dodged trouble in the sixth and seventh as Elgin (7-23, 2-15) evened the series heading into Thursday's finale at Larkin (8-16, 6-11).

Coates (3-4) held the Royals to 4 hits, walked none and struck out 10 to lower his earned-run average to 2.47 in 39 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings.

"He competes. He's a competitor," Elgin coach David Foerster said. "That's what he's done for us the last two years. He's just a special kid, a special athlete, a special pitcher. We're very excited when he's on the mound for us. He gives us a chance every time he's out there."

Following Boley's fifth-inning double, Larkin starting pitcher Kobe Mounivong helped himself with a sacrifice bunt. He was called safe when Coates' throw pulled Elgin's first baseman off the bag. It was the last off-target throw Coates made in the fifth. With the tying run standing at third base with no outs, he struck out the next three batters in an 11-pitch sequence.



Larkin second baseman Aaron Lazovick catches a pop up by Elgin's Kejuan Harvey, right.

John Starks | Staff Photographer "As much as the strikeouts helped, I'm still not trying to do too much myself," said Coates, who has struck out 59 and walked 13. "I'm just trying to pitch to the bat, trying to make something happen. If the strikeouts come, they come. It was just a great way to get out of there."

Coates pitched to Kerber's bat in the sixth inning. After Max Anderson doubled to the right-field wall with two outs, Coates induced a groundout to shortstop JC Fortmann to preserve the 1-run lead.

"I like the way he competes. I told him that after the game," Larkin coach Matt Esterino said of Coates. "You have to tip your cap sometimes. He was very good today, and he deserved to win."

The Royals had an opportunity to tie in the seventh inning, but Boley was called out at third base on a bang-bang play trying to extend a leadoff double into a triple.

"I'll eat that," Esterino said. "That's a baseball play. I was trying to get him to third, you know, move him in with no one out. I kind of broke a cardinal rule and paid for it there so I'll take that. But we fought and that's what we do regardless of who we're playing."

Elgin broke a scoreless tie with 2 runs in the top of the fifth against Mounivong, who limited the Maroons to 2 earned runs on 7 hits and 2 walks and struck out 3 in 5 innings.

Eric Damerow started the rally. Elgin's No. 9 batter beat out a leadoff bunt, advanced to second on a passed ball, to third on Fortmann's fielder's choice and scored on Tim Mitchell's groundball to second.

The Maroons added a second run when RJ Bartlett worked the count full and drew a bases-loaded walk after his check swing was ruled no swing on appeal.

Boley went 2-for-3 and drove in the only run, and Craig Reuter pitched 2 scoreless relief innings for Larkin.

Senior Matt Turner finished with 2 of Elgin's 8 hits.

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Baseball: Bartlett turns the tables on South Elgin

BY SCOTT MILLER

What a difference a day made for the Bartlett baseball team.

After taking a brutal loss on the chin in the opener of their 3-game series against rival South Elgin on Tuesday the visiting Hawks turned the tables with a 9-3 win over the Storm on Wednesday to even the series at a game a piece. Tyler Yang went the distance on the mound to pick up the win for Bartlett.

The two teams meet Thursday at South Elgin in the rubber game.

"It was a complete flip-flop from yesterday," Bartlett coach Devin Rosen said. "We challenged the kids to come out with more energy and determination and they did. We got some confidence early and it kept building. In baseball you try to stay at an even keel from game to game and even inning to inning by not getting too excited after a win or too down after a loss. So we want to keep that steady approach going into the final game of the series."

The Hawks (10-16, 8-10 Upstate Eight Valley) took advantage of some opportunities early on to score their first four runs without getting a hit. In the first inning they plated 3 runs with the help of 2 walks and 3 South Elgin errors. In the fourth inning the Hawks were aided by a pair of walks and added another unearned run.

Bartlett broke the game open in the fifth inning with 5 runs. This time around the Hawks' bats did some damage. Joey Allen delivered the big blow with a 2-run homer. Jonah Medina added an RBI single.

"Some of us seniors had a long talk after the first game," Allen said. "We hadn't beaten South Elgin in four years and we needed to make the most of our last couple of chances. I've been slumping at the plate, so I just went up there looking to jump on the first fastball I saw. I got a good one to hit on the home run."

It was Allen's third home run of the season.

"We've been telling him to take more of a nice easy approach up there," Rosen said. "He has enough power where he doesn't have to overswing to hit it a long ways. Today he got a pitch to his liking and drove it out."

On the mound Yang surrendered 10 hits, but battled out of trouble with the help of some stellar defense.

"It was definitely a full team effort," Yang said. "The run support was great and the defense behind me was awesome. I just concentrated on throwing strikes. I know a lot of their guys, so I felt good about how to pitch them. The slider and the curveball were working pretty good."

Yang had just 2 strikeouts, but did not walk a batter.

Ben Fisher had a diving catch in center. Left fielder Nick Pavell tracked down a fly ball in the left-center field gap while shortstop Mike Vaca made a couple stellar plays on a groundball and a liner.

"Tyler did a great job of throwing strikes today," Rosen said. "He was effective with his movement and location. He's been coming on strong lately and is getting better and better. I think the defense behind him gave him a lot more confidence, too."

South Elgin (12-8-1, 10-7), on the other hand, committed 6 errors and allowed 6 free passes.

"Those have been our Achilles' heel all season," South Elgin coach Jim Kating said. "When you spot a team that many extra at bats and runs it's hard to come back. We just have to put this behind us and get refocused on playing the way we know we are capable of playing."

Nate Gomez and Andrew Gambini had RBI singles for the Storm. Kyle Crosby was tagged with the loss.

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Softball: South Elgin clinches share of Upstate Eight Valley crown

BY JOHN LEMON

Sam Dietz, Alivia Doyle, Daisy Fuentes and Julianna Battaglia celebrated senior day Wednesday at South Elgin, then went out and made a little school history.

With a 17-2 win over East Aurora, the Storm clinched a share of the Upstate Eight Valley title.

South Elgin (15-11, 12-4) can win the championship outright by beating Glenbard East on Thursday; the Storm lead 1-0 in the bottom of the first in the suspended game. Bartlett is second in the UEC Valley at 12-5.

Geneva Pollman, who had a pair of triples and 4 RBI against the Tomcats, wants the title outright.

"It would definitely be a big feather in our cap," Pollman said.

Wednesday's win capped an undefeated home season.

"It's an emotional day," Battaglia said. "I'm proud to be part of this team and part of South Elgin softball. We all just worked together and no one plays for themselves. That's what makes the difference."

Storm coach Brad Reynard said Battaglia's leadership has been one of the keys to the team's success.

"Julianna has been our go-to since September," Reynard said. "Since we came to school she's been running our conditioning. One of the best leaders I've had. Her hard work and her love of the game is awesome."

Battaglia said she had confidence this South Elgin team could be the one to break through.

"We just continue to raise the bar," Battaglia said. "Coming into the season we were a little rusty, people are new, we are a young team. Everyone is stepping up and doing their job."

Another key for South Elgin was its great start to conference play when the Storm won three straight over St. Charles East, St. Charles North and Geneva.

"That really got our momentum going and helped the team believe and see first hand what we are capable of and that we can make a good run," Battaglia said.

On Wednesday, the Storm capitalized on four walks in the first inning which eventually set up the only hit in the inning, Pollman's RBI triple for a 5-1 lead.

Pollman came up with the bases loaded in the second inning and delivered another triple to score 3 more runs as South Elgin built a 14-2 lead after 2 innings.

"I have been having a problem seeing the ball in so I had to slow myself down," Pollman said.

Casey Brennan led the Storm going 3-for-3 with 2 RBI and 3 runs. Sami Koss earned the win, striking out 6 before giving way to Allyssa Kendall.

Now the Storm hope they have one more UEC win in them Thursday.

"Even the (South Elgin) teams that won 20 games here didn't win conference," Reynard said. "That's what I keep telling these kids."

Vivian Bahena had 2 of East Aurora's 3 hits. She doubled and scored in the first inning and had an RBI single in the second.

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Girls Soccer: Elgin, D-C advance to regional finals

DAILY HERALD REPORT

Elgin's girls soccer team advanced to the championship game of the Class 3A Huntley regional with a 2-1 win over the host Red Raiders in Wednesday's semifinals.

Brittany Dazzo scored for Elgin in regulation, then the Maroons (10-7-2) won the game by taking the penalty kick round 5-4. Joana Mercado had 13 saves in goal for Elgin.

Brenna Keegan scored Huntley's goal off an assist from Lily Herbig. Jenna Franklin had 6 saves in goal for the Raiders.

Elgin will take on Jacobs at 3 p.m. Saturday in the regional final. Jacobs defeated Rockford East 8-0 in Wednesday's first semifinal.

Dundee-Crown 3, Harlem 1: The Chargers got 2 goals from Genevieve Rendl and another from Katelyn Skibinski to advance to their own Class 3A regional final. D-C will play Cary-Grove for the regional title on Friday.

Burlington Central 11, IMSA 0: Jordan King had a hat trick and an assist as the Rockets (20-2) rolled into the final of their own Class 2A regional where they will take on Kaneland Friday. Megan Majewski and Zoey Kollhoff had 2 goals and 2 assists each in the win while Sydney Pryor, Madelyn Menke, Isabella Hartmann and Deilea Evans scored once each. Adding assists were Renee Becker, Reagan Oller, Isa Hartmann, Kara Drummond and Alexis Rosa. Erin Rafferty was in goal but wasn't called on to make any saves.

Kaneland 5, Hampshire 0: Abby Tayler had 2 goals while Rachel Franck, Lindsay Penkala and Taylor Carlson each scored once to send Kaneland into Friday's Class 2A Burlington Central regional final against the host Rockets.

CL South 3, Woodstock 1: Lilli Sisler, Cam Sengstock and Abby Wiegand scored goals for Crystal Lake South as it won a semifinal of its own Class 2A regional. Taylor Bittenbender had an assist and Marissa Fetters made 3 saves in goal for the Gators, who will play Crystal Lake Central for the regional title on Friday.