

Canandaigua, NY

Perinton-Fairport Post

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Fairport wins 2nd straight Hawaiian Tropic crown

Rain washes out the championship game on Saturday.

The Fairport High School varsity baseball team went 5-0 against teams from four different states to win the "A" bracket co-championship in the Hawaiian Tropic tournament at Myrtle Beach.

This is the first time Fairport has ever finished 5-0 in the event.

Unfortunately the Saturday championship game, against also undefeated Colonial Forge, Va., was postponed due to rain. Both teams were declared co-champs.

This marks the second year in a row that Fairport has won a championship in Myrtle Beach, SC. Last year they went 4-1 to win the "B" bracket.

This years championship was a result of great pitching, timely hitting, and good defense in clutch situations. Different players stepped up every game to bring about the wins. All 22 available players contributed. They showed their depth, especially at pitching, where eight different pitchers performed exceptionally well.

The team was cheered on by two bleachers full of fans from Fairport. The fan support was fun and rowdy, and their singing voices loud.

The week began on Monday, April 17, as Fairport defeated Jamestown 9-2.

Fairport scored three runs in the second as Erik Miller singled, Ryan Kenny doubles and Aron Meindl singled to drive home Miller. Dan Martin followed with a walk and Andy Gardner brought home two more runs with a double.

In the third, Fairport put the game away with four more runs. Miller singled to drive in one run. Kenny hit another double to plate another run. With the bases loaded, Martin and Gardner walked to pick up easy RBIs.

Jamestown got two back in the bottom of the third and Fairport scored two more in the sixth for the 9-2 win.

Kenny was 3-for-3 to lead Fairport with two doubles, one RBI and one run scored. Gardner was 1-for-3 with three RBI and three walks and Meindl was 1-for-3 with one RBI.

Three Raider pitchers combined to strike out 11 Jamestown batters. Miller started and worked three innings with four strikeouts. Jon Lopez followed with two innings and three strikeouts. Brandon DeRosa finished the final two innings with four strikeouts.

"We had dominating pitching by Erik Miller, Jon Lopez and Brandon DeRosa," said Fairport head coach Pete Granger. "They had 11 strikeouts and only allowed four hits. They were ahead in the count most of the game."

Tuesday, April 18, the Raiders were locked into a much closer battle with West Virginia. With the score tied 5-5 after five innings, Fairport scored seven runs in the bottom of the sixth and went on to the 12-6 win.

In the crucial sixth inning, DeRosa doubled, Brian Connell walked, and Cory Goeggelman singled to load the bases. Meindl followed with a single to drive home two runs. Martin walked to load to sacks back up. Gardner then doubled to drive home two more runs. Kenny singled and that brought home two more runs. Josh Michalko singled followed by a DeRosa walk. Connell hit a sac fly to center to bring home the seventh run.

Michalko got the pitching start. He worked four innings, giving up eight hits, five runs while striking out three. Lopez

worked the final three innings He gave up four hits and struck out two and allowed one run.

Wednesday, the Raiders were back on the diamond to take on Canfield, Ohio. Once again, the big inning came in the bottom of the sixth as Fairport scored three runs to win 6-4.

In the critical sixth, Mark Bruce walked. Nick Caliguri walked and Goeggelman moved both up one base with a sac bunt. Connor McKenna then singled to drive home Bruce with the tying run. Meindl reached on an error that allowed the second Fairport run of the inning to score. Kenny then drilled a single to bring home McKenna with an insurance run.

Nick Alongi (three innings), Joel Hoose (two innings) and Meindl (two innings) shared the pitching duties.

Thursday, April 20, Fairport met Louisa County, Va., in a battle of two undefeated teams.

Fairport played long ball in the second inning to open a 3-0 lead. Alongi homered and then two batters later, Martin homered. DeRosa followed with a double and Goeggelman singled to drive home DeRosa.

Fairport added single runs in the fourth and fifth for a 5-0 lead before Louisa County put two runs on the board in the bottom of the seventh for the 5-2 Fairport win.

DeRosa went the distance on the mound. In seven innings, he scattered seven hits, walked three and struck out three. "Brandon was in complete control," Granger said. "He tired a bit when they got their two runs in the seventh. He had them off balance all game."

Martin finished the game going 3-for-3 at the plate with two runs, two RBI and one home run. Meindl and Goeggelman were 2-for-3 at the plate.

Friday, Fairport beat Horseheads 12-6 to advance to the championship game in the A bracket. Trailing 3-0 in the third, Fairport rallied for seven runs in the bottom of the third and five more in the fourth for a 12-3 lead. Horseheads added three runs in the fifth, but that was all the scoring as Fairport won 12-6.

The fireworks in the third included Caliguri leading off with a single. Connell reaching on an error and McKenna also reaching on an error as Caliguri scored. Martin was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Gardner was walked to bring home Connell. Alongi singled to plate two more runs. Michalko followed with a single to score another run. Kenny reached on an error. The final two runs were scored on a force play and on Connell single.

Miller worked the first four innings on the mound scattering seven hits, walking one and striking out four. Kenny worked the final three innings allowing one hit, one walk, no runs and striking out four.

Michalko and Meindl led the offense with two hits each.

The five wins brought the team record to 7-0 overall.

Fairport is coming home for four games this week, finally playing their first game at home on Thursday.

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