

WarEagle rallies come up short

By Willis Patenaude

Last week was one of heartbreaking defeats for the Clayton Ridge-Central WarEagle baseball team, which currently sits at 7-8 in the Upper Iowa Conference and on a six-game losing streak heading into the final week of the regular season.

On June 24, the WarEagles were on the road for a doubleheader with South Winneshiek. They clung to a 2-1 lead entering the fifth inning of game one, when the Warriors put up four runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 5-2 lead. The WarEagles battled back with two runs in the top of the sixth, then added another in the top of the seventh to tie the game 5-5, but the Warriors walked off for a 6-5 victory.

The CRC offense was led by Mason Loan and Kahne Bolsinger, who both had two hits and scored a run, while Bolsinger added an RBI. Seth Kregel had a team-high three RBIs to go with two hits. Owen Hammersland had one RBI and Isaac Loan and Max Nuehring each scored a run. The offense finished with nine hits, including one triple by Kregel.

On the mound was a

trio of pitchers, highlighted by Griffen Hammersland, who gave up just one hit and no earned runs in two and one-third innings. Owen Hammersland pitched two and two-thirds innings, allowing four hits, one walk and four earned runs. Nuehring pitched one inning, giving up one hit, two walks and one earned run.

The WarEagles suffered another close loss in game two. With a 5-2 lead heading into the bottom of the third inning, the Warriors overtook them after scoring twice in the bottom of the inning, then added five more in the bottom of the fourth for a 9-5 advantage. The score remained the same through the fifth and sixth innings, and though the WarEagles rallied in the top of seventh, scoring three runs to close the gap to 9-8, the rally fell one run short.

CRC's offense put up 11 hits, including two doubles, while inducing five walks. Nuehring led the way with three hits and two runs scored, and Mason Loan and Griffen Hammersland collected two hits each and two RBIs. Bolsinger, Carson Ruegnitz and Dominique Mast each had one hit, while Ruegnitz,

Mast and Owen Hammersland finished with one RBI each.

Pitching duties were spread across four players, with Jack Scherf pitching three innings of scoreless baseball while striking out four. Colton Hoeger went for two innings, allowing four hits and four unearned runs, while tallying two strikeouts. Kregel allowed one hit, two walks, one hit batter and two earned runs in one inning and Mason Loan didn't complete an inning, giving up three earned runs and two walks, while hitting two batters.

The WarEagles' final game of the week was against Crestwood on June 25. The Cadets put up six runs in the first two innings, while the WarEagles mustered just two, leading to a 6-2 loss.

Bolsinger collected two of the team's three hits along with three stolen bases, and also scored a run. Mason Loan and Mast had one RBI each.

Isaac Loan and Tate Hoeger both pitched two innings, with Loan giving up four hits, three walks and six runs—five of them earned. Hoeger allowed just one hit and struck out two batters.

The WarEagles have a loaded final week of the regular season. It started June 30 at MFL MarMac, followed by a home doubleheader versus Turkey Valley on July 1. The WarEagles will play in Elkader on July 3 for senior night versus Waukon, with first pitch scheduled for 7 p.m.

Clayton Ridge-Central will meet the Indians again on Saturday, July 5 for the IHSAA 2A Substate 4 first round of the playoffs at MFL MarMac High School. Game time is set for 5 p.m.



Jerica Wille eyes a hit in the first game of MFL MarMac's doubleheader sweep of Postville on June 25. (Photo by Audrey Posten)

Bulldog softball adds two wins

By Audrey Posten

The MFL MarMac softball team added two wins to its season total last week in a June 25 doubleheader sweep of Postville.

After the Pirates put up a run in the opening frame of game one, the Bulldogs responded with a three-run bottom of the first to quickly seize the lead. They tacked on one run in the fourth inning, then four more in the sixth to widen the gap. Although one Postville runner crossed home plate in the top of the seventh inning, MFL MarMac held on for an 8-2 win.

MFL MarMac cranked out eight hits and benefited from four walks and two hit batters. Players also swiped 10 bases. Eighth grader Gracyn Welch limited the Pirates to six hits, while walking five hitters and striking out six.

The Bulldog offense churned out just four hits, but piled on double-digit runs in a 13-3 victory over Postville in game two. Trailing 3-0 heading into the bottom of the third inning, MFL MarMac erupted with nine runs in that frame and four more in the fourth to pull away.

In addition to the hits, MFL MarMac benefitted from six walks and one hit batter. Postville allowed two steals and committed seven errors.

The Pirates scored their three runs on four hits—all singles—and reached three times on walks. They managed six

stolen bases.

The victories snapped a 16-game losing skid for the Bulldogs, who were swept earlier in the week by West Central. The Blue Devils won the first game 15-3, after tallying 11 hits, four walks and four hit batters. They minimized MFL MarMac's damage to five hits and only one walk.

Game two was a pitching duel. West Central was up 3-0 when the Bulldogs pulled within a run in the top of the third inning. Neither team crossed home plate again until the bottom of the fifth inning, when the Blue Devils scored once more. They held MFL MarMac off the scoreboard the rest of the way for a 4-2 victory.

West Central put up seven hits, then reached base six more times on a combination of Bulldog walks, hit batters and errors. They swiped two bases.

MFL MarMac connected on five hits and drew one walk. Like the Blue Devils, they stole two bases.

The Bulldogs closed out the week June 27, in an 8-0 home loss to Central City. The Wildcats netted 10 hits and reached first base six more times thanks to walks and three times via hit by pitch. Players also collected six stolen bases.

MFL MarMac struggled to make contact against Central City pitcher Addison Gralund, who racked up 11 strikeouts in five innings. The Bulldogs got one hit and one walk against her, then added another hit versus Avery Wise, who pitched two innings.

MFL MarMac now sits at 5-23 overall and 3-9 in the Upper Iowa Conference. The team will close out regular season play this week, with doubleheaders at North Fayette Valley on June 30 and Central on July 2, before hosting Waukon on July 3.

The Bulldogs will host Postville in the opening round of Class 2A - Region 7 playoff action on Monday, July 7, starting at 7 p.m. The winner will play Cascade on July 9.



Wikner joins 100-hit club

MFL MarMac sophomore Emme Wikner recently joined the 100-hit club. Since the start of the Varsity Bound era of recorded stats, just 10 MFL MarMac softball players have reached the impressive mark. A previous first-team all-conference and all-district selection, Wikner continues to lead the Bulldog offense this season with 29 hits, including 10 for extra bases, and a .475 batting average. (Submitted photo)

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