

Crusaders claim Little 4 baseball title, but split twinbill with Ferndale

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FERNDALE -- Excellent pitching and defense ruled the 11-inning nightcap between the Crusaders and the Wildcats on Saturday.

However, it would be a critical mistake by shortstop David Del Grande that allowed Jake Morris to come in and score the winning-run for Ferndale as they walked away 4-3 victors, earning a split with St. Bernard's who clinched the Little 4 title with their 8-2 decision in game one.

The Wildcats jumped to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning but the Crusaders were able to fight back and score three runs in the fourth. Ferndale was able to answer with one run in the fifth and after a back and forth battle, it would be an unearned run that won the contest for the Wildcats.

History tends to repeat itself and the nightcap loss to Ferndale is the only conference blemish St. Bernard's has suffered this season. The Crusaders only Little 4 last season was to the Wildcats.

McKinleyville 2, Fortuna 1

McKinleyville 6, Fortuna 5

Sam Rotwein and Cody Hay were the heroes for the Panthers against Big 5 foe Fortuna on Saturday.

Rotwein's homer and excellent outing on the mound and Cody Hay's two-RBI double scored the

tying and winning runs.

While McKinleyville may have earned the sweep, the Huskies weren't about to make it easy.

Pitchers Ruben Rios and Nate Hamilton had fantastic outings on the mound striking out a combined 15 McKinleyville batters.

Hoopla 16, South Fork 1

Hoopla 11, South Fork 1

The Warriors mowed down the Cubs on both sides of the ball on Saturday en route to a crushing sweep.

Paced by gunslingers Junior Davis and Owee Colegrove who combined for 19 strikeouts, the Hoopla showed no mercy.

Prep Softball

Hoopla 10, South Fork 0

Hoopla 10, South Fork 0

WILLOW CREEK -- Hoopla's Chenone Blake threw her first perfect game of the year, and possibly her career, in the first of identical 10-0 wins over South Fork.

Blake's sister, Stormy, followed with a one-hitter. At the plate, the sisters combined to go 8-for-14 with Chenone's home run, while Jessica Ammon was a perfect 6-for-6 on the day.

"(Chenone's) been close (to throwing a no-hitter) before. She's had no-hitters and one gets through," Hoopla head coach Ryan Ray said. "My defense did really well today."

Hoopa improved to 9-1 in the Little 4, which sets up a league championship doubleheader against Ferndale on Thursday in Willow Creek. South Fork fell to 1-9.

Other Scores:

Eureka 9, Arcata 2

Eureka 16, Arcata 6

Fortuna 11, McKinleyville 2

Fortuna 15, McKinleyville 11

A disparity in errors cost the Panthers at least a split against the Huskies on Saturday.

Taking advantage of McKinleyville's mistakes -- eight errors compared to the Huskies' two -- Fortuna bats swung away leaving the Panthers wondering what could have been.