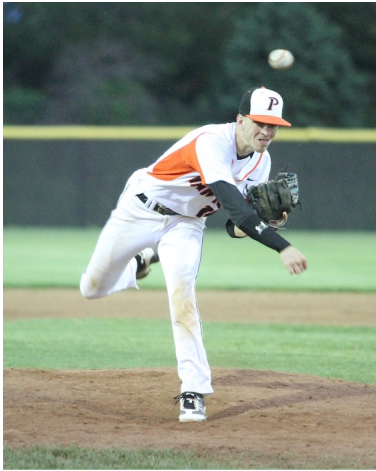


Prairie Hawks upset No.1 Ankeny

Written by Mike Condon

Thursday, 13 June 2013 22:43 - Last Updated Thursday, 13 June 2013 23:24



Many elements are necessary to upset a top-ranked team.

For such an event to happen, the underdog team has to execute to perfection, take advantage of any opportunities and come up with the clutch plays at clutch times.

Cedar Rapids Prairie's baseball team did all of the above Thursday night.

The Hawks turned three double plays on defense, scored all five of their runs after two were out and got big hits from seniors Ty Mouglin and Brennan Hammer in the decisive two-run sixth inning to send top-ranked Ankeny back to central Iowa with a 5-3 defeat in a well-played game at Prairie.

Coach Matt Thede's squad, which hosts Cedar Falls in a key Mississippi Valley Conference twinbill Friday night, moved to 12-6 with the win. Ankeny dropped to 12-3.

Thede sent a message to his team earlier in the day about his expectations for the match-up with the state's top Class 4A team.

"I sent (the players) a text before the game saying that other people will be shocked, but we will not be shocked if we win this game," he said. "We believe in ourselves and we believe in our

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team, but this was nothing more than a non-conference game against a quality opponent where we will learn a little more about ourselves."

So what did Thede learn?

Well, he may have found a closer for the rest of the season.

Mougin has been a fixture at shortstop for the Hawks and hadn't taken to the mound until the seventh inning of Thursday's game.

"I just threw a bullpen for the first time this week," he said. "That was my first appearance all year. I wasn't even a pitcher at the start of the year."

The move to the mound came out of necessity. Thede said the Hawks have been a little thin on the mound and some reinforcements were needed.

"We've been searching for a little help," Thede said. "We have a couple kids dinged up and we have been looking for a fourth starter. Ty stepped up. He pitched a little bit for us last year and said 'Coach, I'd like to help out.' He came out, threw a bullpen on Tuesday and closed down the show on Thursday."

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