

Prairie stretches win streak to 6 in sweep

Written by Drew Balta

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The Cedar Rapids Prairie baseball came up with a new slogan this week: Keep the crash rolling.

That's exactly what they did Friday night.

Prairie swept Cedar Falls, 9-7 and 11-5, in a Mississippi Valley Conference doubleheader to give the Hawks a six-game winning streak.

The twin-killing lifted Prairie to 16-13 overall and 12-8 in the MVC.

Brennan Hammer moved to the leadoff spot in the batting order and went 4-for-8 with five RBIs in the doubleheader for Prairie.

"I was nervous at the beginning of the year," said Hammer, a sophomore, "but now I am starting to swing the bat really well and we are having a lot of fun."

Anthony Gagliardi hit a two-run homer for Prairie in the opener.

"He was due," Coach Matt Thede said with a smile. "He is definitely one of our leaders."

The Tigers (14-15, 13-9) had the tying run at the plate in the seventh inning, but the Hawks escaped with the 9-7 victory in the opener.

Prairie jumped to an early 4-1 lead in the nightcap. Cedar Falls rallied and tied the game, 4-4, but the Hawks broke it open from there for the 11-5 victory.

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Brayton Carlson led the Hawks in game two, going 3-for-4 with two triples and two RBIs.

Prairie hosts Washington in a doubleheader Saturday at 11 a.m.

Game 1

CEDAR FALLS (7)

Gallu, cf, 3 2 1 0, Hagarty, ss, 3 2 1 0, Schwickerath, dh, 4 0 2 4, Kuntz, p, 0 0 0 0, Klinehart, 1b, 4 2 2 0, Doyle, lf, 3 1 1 0, Daniels, 2b, 3 0 1 1, Zwanziger, rf, 3 0 0 0, Creger, 3b, 3 0 0 0, Sole, c, 3 0 2 0. Totals, 29 7 10 5.

PRAIRIE (9)

Hammer, dh, 4 0 2 3, Meyer, c, 0 0 0 0, Utley, 1b, 4 0 1 0, B. Carlson, 2b, 3 1 1 1, Butz, 3b, 2 1 1 0, Gagliardi, cf, 4 1 2 3, Votroubeck, rf, 4 1 2 0, D. Carlson, p, 4 2 1 0, Boots, lf, 3 1 1 1, Mougin, ss, 2 2 0 0. Totals 30 9 11 8.

Cedar Falls 012 101 2- 7 10 2

Prairie 023 220 x- 9 11 2

Kuntz, Davis (4) and Sole. D. Carlson, Hammer(6) and Meyer. W- Carlson. L- Kuntz. 2B- Schwickerath 2, Hammer, Utley, B. Carlson, D. Carlson. HR - Gagliardi.

Game 2

CEDAR FALLS (5)

Gallu, cf, 3 2 2 0, Hagarty, ss, 2 2 2 0, Schwickerath, dh, 4 0 1 1, Benton, p, 0 0 0 0, Klinehart, 1b, 4 0 2 2, Doyle, lf, 4 0 1 1, Daniels, 2b, 2 0 0 0, Zwanziger, rf, 4 0 0 0, Creger, 3b, 4 0 0 0, Sole, c, 3 1 1 0. Totals 30 5 9 4.

PRAIRIE (11)

Hammer, 1b, 4 1 2 2, Utley, p, 3 1 2 1, Pond, p, 2 1 1 0, B. Carlson, 2b, 4 3 3 2, Gagliardi, rf, 1 0 0 0, Votroubeck, dh, 3 2 2 3, Mougin, ss, 0 0 0 0, D. Carlson, c, 3 0 1 0, Butz, 3b, 3 1 1 0, Joens, cf, 3 0 0 0, Boots, lf, 2 2 1 0. Totals 27 11 12 8.

Cedar Falls 103 010 0 - 5 9 2

Prairie 310 322 x - 11 13 1

Benton, Zwanziger(4), Seehase(6) and Sole. Utley, Pond (4), Alberts (7), and D. Carlson. W - Pond. L - Zwanziger. 2B - Boots. 3B - Hammer, B. Carlson 2.