Coe belts La Crosse to reach finals

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LA CROSSE, Wis. - The Coe College baseball team smashed Wisconsin-LaCrosse, 11-5, in the winner's bracket finals of the NCAA Division III regional baseball tournament Friday night and needs one more victory to reach the World Series for the first time in school history.

Craig Konrardy and Michael Goerdt, batting 1-2 in the lineup, combined to go 10-for-11 at the plate with six runs scored and four RBIs. Konrardy was 5-for-6 and Goerdt was 5-for-5.

AJ Reuter, Jack Hoffmann and Jory Heckenberg all had two hits and two RBIs for the Kohawks as the top five batters in the lineup went 16-for-26 with 10 RBIs.

Coe will play in the championship game of the double-elimination tournament Sunday against an opponent to be determined Saturday. They will face either No. 20 Wisconsin-La Crosse, No. 3 Wisconsin-Whitewater or Concordia-Chicago.

The Kohawks are the only undefeated team in the tournament, so if they lose the first championship game Sunday they'll get another chance to win the regional title in the second championship game Sunday.

Ben Jacobson was the beneficiary of all that offense Friday and was the winning pitcher.

The Kohawks (34-12) broke the game open with six runs in the fourth inning for a 7-1 lead. They beat Wisconsin-La Crosse on La Crosse's home field.

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W - Ben Jacobson. L - Shane Adler.