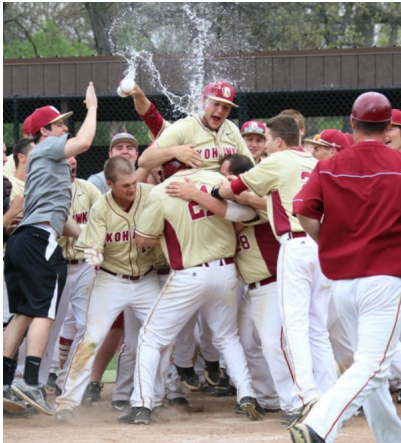


Goerd't's 3 homers power Kohawks

Written by Jim Ecker

Saturday, 18 April 2015 19:50 - Last Updated Saturday, 18 April 2015 21:27



Coe senior Michael Goerd't was being mobbed by his teammates at home plate Saturday at Daniels Park when one of the Central College players asked a good question.

"What are we pitching to HIM for?," the Central player wondered aloud in frustration.

The Dutchmen did not learn their lesson and Goerd't made them pay dearly.

Goerd't set a school record with three home runs in a single game and belted the game-winner with nobody out in the bottom of the ninth for a dramatic 7-6 victory in the nightcap of an Iowa Conference doubleheader.

Central won the first game, 8-0.

Goerd't, a left-handed batter from Waterloo Columbus, socked three solo home runs in the second game, all to a similar spot behind the right-field fence. He connected in the fourth inning, again in the fifth inning and again in the ninth with the score tied 6-6.

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"They kept hanging curveballs and I kept punishing them," said Goerd't. "That's what we're taught to do."

It was the first time he's ever hit three home runs in a single game, at any level of baseball except perhaps in his back yard.

"No, I've never done that. Good spot for it, though," he allowed.

The Kowawks (13-9, 21-10) did not do much hitting in the first game and were trailing 5-0 in the fourth inning of the nightcap when Goerd't broke the ice with his first home run. The Kohawks scored three more times in the frame to creep within 5-4, setting the stage for late-game heroics.

Jack Hoffmann hit a solo home run in the eighth inning to tie the game 6-6, then Goerd't finished the job in the ninth. According to the Coe athletic department, nobody had ever hit three homers in a single game for the Kohawks in school history.

"It's special," said Coach Steve Cook. "It's special, because it's Senior Day, to see him have that special moment. He's a leader for our team. You hope that experience happens to all your kids at some point."

"He must have been seeing it well and things were clicking for him on finding it at the plate. The ball was jumping off his bat."

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The Kohawks (10-9) defeated the Hawks (1-4) in a game that was a turning point for the team. Goerdt's 3 homers in the last 10 games were a key factor in the team's success.