

IBA state tourney trimmed to 3 teams

Written by Jim Ecker

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NORWAY - The Iowa Amateur Baseball Association state tournament has been trimmed to three teams with Fairfax, Red Top and Norway still in the hunt for top honors.

Fairfax has a 4-0 record in the tournament after clipping Walford, 3-2, Saturday on a three-run homer by Chico Lizarraga and a complete game by Austin Czerwicz.

Red Top and Norway both have one loss in the double-elimination event heading into Sunday's games.

Fairfax and Norway will meet in the first game Sunday at 1 p.m. If Fairfax beats Norway, the Stars can claim the 2018 championship by defeating Red Top at 3 p.m.

If Fairfax loses to Norway, all three teams - Fairfax, Norway and Red Top - would have one loss and they'd battle it out from there in dramatic showdowns.

Red Top won the state title last year, Fairfax won the Iowa Valley League title this year and Norway has a rich tradition in the state tournament over the years.

Walford had a 2-0 lead against Fairfax Saturday afternoon until Lizarraga belted his three-run homer. That was Walford's second loss of the two-week tournament and knocked the Hogs out of action.

The day began with Walford clipping the Muscatine Road Runners, 4-1, and Red Top edging the Quad City 76ers, 5-4. That knocked the Road Runners and the 76ers out of the tourney.

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Red Top blanked Norway, 6-0, in the last game Saturday, handing the Tigers their first loss of the tournament. Ben Rettenmeier pitched a six-hit shutout with nine strikeouts for Red Top.

Cal Clark had a two-run single for Red Top and Trey Beckman belted a majestic home run to right field.

There definitely will be games at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the refurbished Norway diamond Sunday. There also could be a third game at 5 p.m., if necessary, and it's also possible that the ultimate championship game will be played Monday at 7 p.m. at Norway.