

KNIGHT SOFTBALL SPLITS TWO AS REGULAR-SEASON END APPROACHES

By MIKE BYKER
Correspondent

HULL, GALVA — The Unity Christian Knight softball team split their most recent two games to move to 11-8 this season, heading into the final week of the regular season.

The Knights lost to Western Christian on Thursday, June 22, by a final score of 12-10. The Knights gave up four in the third inning of the game in Hull and another in the fourth to trail 5-1. Unity Christian got a run in the fifth inning to tie the game, but Western Christian came back with a run in the fifth to regain the lead.

The Knights took a two-run lead with a pair of scores in the top of the sixth but allowed six more in the sixth inning. Unity Christian was able to get three back in the top of the seventh but didn't have enough to come back and fell 12-10.

"Offensively we struggled early," said Unity Christian coach Travis De Jong. "I didn't think we had great plate discipline. We chased too many pitches out of the zone and took pitches in the zone. We did better as the game went on and were able to square balls up better."

Ruby Zylstra had three singles with a run batted in. Addison Liston had a pair of singles with a double and two runs batted in. Ella Poppema got credit for three runs batted in with a single and a sacrifice fly. Addison Liston and Brielle Reitsma each got credit for two runs batted in. Paige De Boom gave up one earned run in six innings pitched and struck out four with three bases on balls. Unity Christian's defense committed six errors.

"Defensively we struggled," De Jong said. "When you give teams extra chances it usually doesn't end well. Western has some solid hitters and took advantage of all our mistakes. They got big hits when they needed it."

The Knights were scheduled to play in pair of games at Central Lyon on Saturday, June 24, but those games were called off.

Unity Christian bounced back with a win to start the week on Monday, June 26, against Ridge View by a 1-0 count.

Unity scored the game winner on the Galva diamond in the second inning. Addyson De Boom came across after getting hit by a pitch to reach the base line. Unity Christian was limited to two hits in the game and De Boom scored without virtue of a base hit.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
Unity Christian	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ridge View	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Athlete	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	AVG
Cassady Dekkers	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Summer Schouten	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Brielle Reitsma	2	0	1	0	1	1	.500
Ruby Zylstra	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Addyson De Boom	2	1	0	0	0	2	.000
Haley Hofland	3	0	0	0	0	3	.000
Addison Liston	3	0	1	0	0	2	.333
Ella Poppema	1	0	0	0	1	1	.000
Autumn Bousema	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Paige De Boom	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Totals	21	1	2	0	2	14	.095

Athlete	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W
Paige De Boom	7	3	0	0	0	4	1



Airborne
Addison Liston of Unity Christian catches air on a slide into third base in action on Thursday, June 22, against Western Christian in Hull. The Knights scored nine runs in the last three innings of the game but the Wolfpack prevailed 12-10. Liston was 3-4 in the game, rapped two RBIs in a 3-4 game. (Photo by Anna Heynen)

Paige De Boom went seven innings and gave up three hits in another pitchers' duel, struck out four and pitched around two defensive errors.

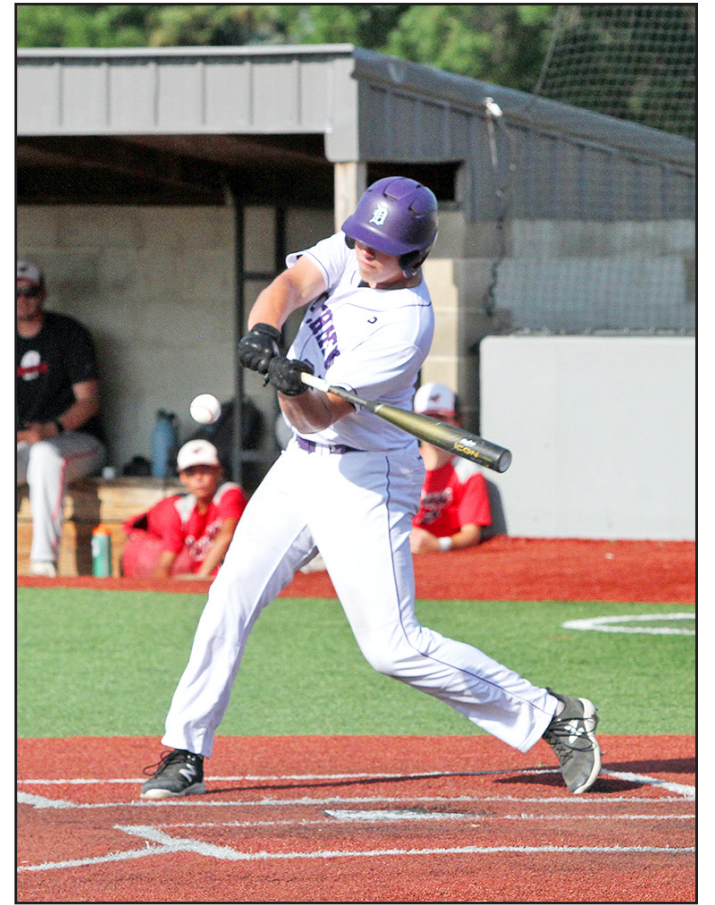
Unity Christian was schedule to play Gehlen Catholic on Tuesday night, June 27, Akron Westfield on Wednesday, June 28, and Hinton on Thursday, June 29. The Knights then travel to Spirit Lake on Friday, June 30, to cap the month and turn around to face Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley on Monday, July 3.

The Knights will open tournament play on the road against Spirit Lake on Thursday, July 6.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
Unity Christian	1	0	0	0	4	2	3	10
Western Christian	0	0	4	1	1	6	0	12

Athlete	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	AVG
Cassady Dekkers	3	1	2	0	0	0	.667
Summer Schouten	4	1	1	1	0	2	.250
Brielle Reitsma	4	0	1	2	0	0	.250
Ruby Zylstra	4	1	3	1	0	1	.750
Addyson De Boom	4	1	0	0	0	2	.000
Haley Hofland	3	0	1	0	1	1	.333
Emily Noteboom	0	2	0	0	0	0	.000
Addison Liston	4	2	3	2	0	1	.750
Ella Poppema	3	1	1	3	0	0	.333
Autumn Bousema	3	1	1	0	0	0	.333
Paige De Boom	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Totals	32	10	13	9	1	7	.406

Athlete	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	L
Paige De Boom	6	11	12	1	3	4	1



Extra bases
Brett Van Gelder of MOC-Floyd Valley got a piece of this pitch in play on Thursday, June 22, against George-Little Rock in Orange City. The Dutch won both games of the double dip by scores of 12-2 and 13-2. Van Gelder was 2-3 in the first game with a double and a triple, scoring two runs and getting an RBI. (Photo by Doug Calsbeek)

Stolen bases and strong hitting leads Dutch baseball past Mustangs

By MIKE BYKER
Correspondent

ORANGE CITY, STORM LAKE — The MOC-Floyd Valley Dutch baseball team secured a double header sweep from George-Little Rock on Thursday, June 22 before getting tripped on the road to Storm Lake 9-4.

The games against George-Little Rock were both 10-run shortened games. In game one, the Dutch allowed a run in the first before MOC-Floyd Valley had four runs in the home half of the game and two in the second and the Dutch had an 11-2 lead after the third inning. MOC-Floyd Valley then scored one in the sixth to finish the game.

Brett Van Gelder had a double and triple with a run batted in and Nikolai Wede and Luke Korver each had two runs batted in. The Dutch had a total of seven bases on balls in the contest and 10 stolen bases with Blake Aalbers swiping three on his own.

"We really did a nice job of putting pressure on George-Little Rock in the doubleheader stealing 10 bases in game one," said MOC-Floyd Valley coach Brian Wede. "Brett Van Gelder had a great day at the plate."

Austin Solsma had four innings pitched with three walks and two strikeouts and two hits allowed. Braden Konz worked two innings and struck out two with two hits given up.

The Dutch then banged out 10 runs in the first inning of game two and went on to win it 13-2 in four innings.

The Dutch did their damage with nine hits and three walks and Luke Korver had three singles with two runs batted in. Aalbers had two runs batted in and Kooper Huss and Braden Konz both had two runs batted in as well.

Braylon Van Gelder went four innings and struck out two with six hits allowed and Carter Van Gelder pitched an inning with two strikeouts.

"Three pitchers made their varsity debut; Austin Solsma, Braylon Van Gelder and Carter Van Gelder," said Wede.

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THREE GAMES PRECEDE LAST REGULAR WEEK OF DUTCH SOFTBALL

By MIKE BYKER
Correspondent

SPENCER, ORANGE CITY — The MOC-Floyd Valley Dutch softball team went 2-1 in three most-recent games to build its record to 17-8.

The Dutch were scheduled to play on Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24 at a tournament hosted by Spencer, but the Saturday games were canceled.

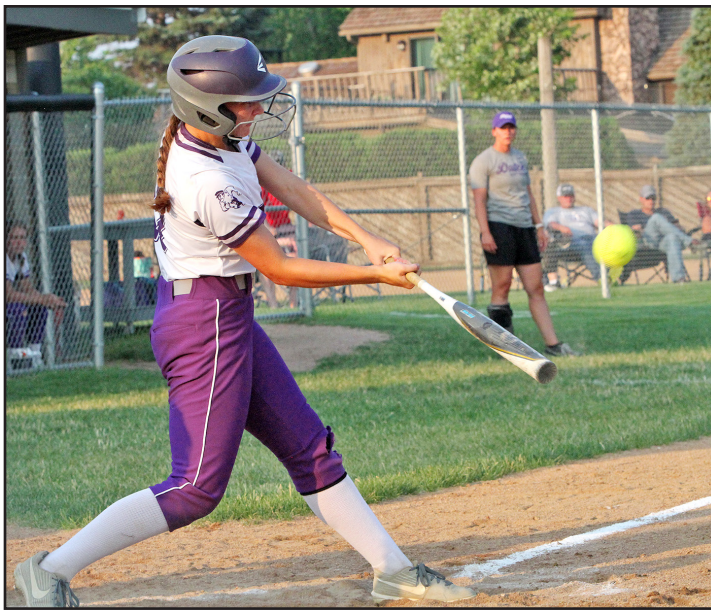
The Dutch managed a split on Friday with an 11-2 win over Denison Schleswig and a 2-1 loss to Le Mars. On Monday, June 26, MOC-Floyd Valley returned to league play to upend Sheldon 10-0.

Against the Monarchs to start play on Friday, the Dutch scored five in the second enroute to an 8-1 lead after three innings. A three run fifth inning provided the final margin of victory.

"There were a lot of factors that led to our offensive production," said MOC-Floyd Valley coach Jennifer Boeve. "We got a few bunts down, drew a few walks, hit the ball hard on the ground, and they made a few errors as well."

Lili Flemming had the only multi-hit game for the Dutch with two singles and four runs batted in and had two runs scored in the leadoff spot. Aubrey De Shaw knocked in three runs and had a double. Kady Hoekstra and Addy Leusink each scored two runs,

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Solid single
Kady Hoekstra of MOC-Floyd Valley put the ball in play with this hit on Monday, June 26, in the game in Orange City against Sheldon. The swat put Hoekstra on third for the only triple for the Dutch in the 10-0 win. Hoekstra was 2-3 with two RBIs. (Photo by Doug Calsbeek)

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Carson Jager



Photo by Doug Calsbeek

MOC-Floyd Valley senior Carson Jager, this month's Sioux County Capital-Democrat Athlete of the Month, leads the Dutch in the batting box, helping that squad to a 21-7 record (as of Saturday, June 25) in overall play this season and to a 12-1 stance in the Siouxland Conference. Jager led state play with eight triples and was third in Class 3A play with 70 total bases in at bats. Jager leads the Siouxland Conference with a .433 batting average, .778 slugging percentage, 39 hits, 33 RBIs and four home runs. With 24 base hits and 33 runs scored, Jager is second in the conference.

"Carson is a high-level hitter who has really been seeing the ball well," said coach Brian Wede. "His ability to stay on time and get the

barrel to the ball is really good. His consistency has really helped us and given us a force in the middle of the lineup."

Jager is also one of several Siouxland Conference leaders with six pitching starts in the season and has allowed only two walks in games pitched.

Wede noted that Carson's pitching has been important for the Dutch. "He's pitched in most of our key games this year, and we know we will have a chance to win every game he pitches."

The Dutch close the regular season with games against Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley on Wednesday, June 28, and will host Sergeant-Bluff Luton on Friday, June 30, and Sioux Center on Monday, July 3.

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