

Prairie claims outright MVC crown

Written by Metro Sports Report
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The Cedar Rapids Prairie baseball team put an exclamation point on the first Mississippi Valley Conference title in school history Friday night.

The Hawks rallied for a dramatic 6-5 victory over Dubuque Wahlert in the first game by scoring three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning with two outs to erase a 5-3 deficit.

Prairie rolled in the nightcap, 8-1.

The Hawks captured the Mississippi Division title in the MVC with a 21-5 final record. The Hawks clinched a tie for the title Thursday night by splitting a twinbill at Dubuque Senior, and they relished the thought of winning the outright title at home by winning at least one of their games against Wahlert.

They did it in style.

There were two outs and nobody on base in the bottom of the seventh of the opener with Prairie staring at that 5-3 deficit, but they captured a little piece of magic and a big piece of history.

Cal Clark began the rally with a single. Trey Beckman hit a double. Nic Mougin hit another double and Cooper Reitinger followed with a walk-off single to win the ballgame and start the celebration.

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As it turned out, Dubuque Hempstead lost both of its games Friday night at Iowa City West and had no chance of catching Prairie in the standings no matter how the Hawks did against Wahlert. The Hawks wanted to win the title on their own, however, and they took care of business before their own fans at Prairie.

Cedar Rapids Prairie joined the Mississippi Valley Conference for the 1986-87 school year, making this the 29th year of competition for the Hawks in MVC baseball. Now they finally have their first crown.

In addition, the Hawks have set school records for most conference wins in one season (21) and most overall wins in one season (28). The old school records were 19 conference wins and 27 total victories.

Prairie is 28-7 overall.

Jalen Rima went 2-for-4 with a double in the first game Friday. Clark was 2-for-3. Beckman finished 2-for-3 with two doubles. Mougins had a double and two RBIs and was the winning pitcher.

Brody Alberts pitched a four-hitter in the 8-1 victory in the nightcap. Ethan Copeland was 3-for-3 and Ben Boldt was 2-for-3.

Wahlert dropped to 11-13 in the conference and 16-18 overall.

GAME 1

Wahlert 000 102 2 - 5 9 2

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Prairie 100 200 3 - 6 9 2

W - Mougin. L - Savary.

GAME 2

Wahlert 010 000 0 - 1 4 2

Prairie 001 250 x - 8 12 1

W - Alberts.