Prairie nips Waterloo West in regional

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The Cedar Rapids Prairie softball team had a spirited battle with Waterloo West this season before topping the Wahawks for the Mississippi Division title in the Mississippi Valley Conference by two games.

They had another spirited battle Saturday night and the Prairie Hawks won again.

Prairie trimmed Waterloo West, 4-3, in the Class 5A regional semifinals at the Prairie diamond.

Prairie (27-11) will meet third-ranked Jefferson (34-7) in the regional finals Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Jefferson, with the winner advancing to the Class 5A state tournament in Fort Dodge.

Natalie Halvorson got the victory for Prairie Saturday night. She collected five strikeouts and allowed two earned runs.

Lauren Kuch went 2-for-3 with two doubles and two RBIs for the Hawks. Amanda Pipolo was 2-for-3 with an RBI.

The bottom of the Prairie lineup scored all four runs with Kuch, Haley McFarlane, Carsyn Waller and pinch-runner Rylie Kane all crossing the plate.

Prairie and Jefferson split a doubleheader this season.