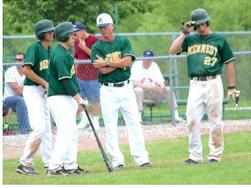


Hoyer nets No. 650 as Cougars sweep

Written by Jim Ecker
Friday, 11 July 2014 20:51 -



There were no brass bands, no parades, no big celebration.

Even if Kennedy baseball coach Bret Hoyer had known about his latest milestones, he'd want to keep it as quiet as possible anyway.

There have been thousands of high school baseball coaches in Iowa over the years and Hoyer is now solidly in the top-25 of all time.

The third-ranked Cougars swept Waterloo West, 10-0 and 4-0, Friday night to give Hoyer his 650th victory in 25 years as a head coach.

He's tied for 23rd all-time with Dick Core and Terry Heald with those 650 victories as he continues to roll along.

"It's very cool," Hoyer said when informed of his place on the all-time list. "I've had some pretty talented players and coaches to work with."

Hoyer has a 586-288-1 record in 22 years at Kennedy. He was 64-38 in three years at Iowa City Regina, putting his overall mark at 650-326-1.

The Cougars raised their records to 27-4 overall and 21-3 in the Mississippi Valley Conference by sweeping Waterloo West. Kennedy began the night tied with top-ranked Dubuque Hempstead in the MVC, but the Cougars moved into sole possession of first place when Hempstead lost the first game of its twinbill at Linn-Mar Friday. Hempstead salvaged a split to stay one game behind the Cougars.

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Kennedy and Hempstead will have a showdown for the conference title Monday night at Kennedy in the final MVC games of the regular season.

The Cougars got more good pitching against the struggling Wahawks Friday night. Blake Hargens and Tyler Dralle combined on a no-hitter in the 10-0 victory in the first game, then Jacob Henry spun a two-hitter in the 4-0 verdict in the nightcap.

Hargens retired all 12 batters he faced in four innings in the opener. Dralle walked two batters in the fifth and final inning, but got out of trouble.

Hargens raised his record to 8-0 and dropped his earned run average to a tidy 1.09 for the Cougars. He is tied for the most victories in Class 4A with Tommy Dorton (8-0) of Davenport West and Tanner Wauhob of Sioux City West (8-3).

Kennedy and Davenport West are in the same Class 4A substate this year and could meet in the substate finals with Dorton on the mound for the Falcons.

Henry, a sophomore, had to serve a 10-game suspension at the start of the season, but he's moved into the No. 4 spot in the pitching rotation with a 2-1 record and 1.35 ERA.

Henry said he returned to the active roster with a sense of urgency after missing the first part of the campaign. "Yeah, I was excited," he said. "I had a rough start (to the year)."

He carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning before allowing a single in the sixth and another single in the seventh.

"My fastball was working and my curveball was on tonight," he said. "A changeup every once in awhile got me some ground-outs."

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"It's a good accomplishment," he said of the two-hitter. "I'll be working for more in the future."

Hoyer likes the way Henry has been throwing the ball. "He's been really good," the Hall of Fame coach said. "His last few starts have been fantastic."

Kennedy pitchers have thrown 13 shutouts in 31 games this year.

Derek Jacobus went 3-for-3 for Kennedy in the first game. Ben Sass and Dralle had two RBIs.

Waterloo West fell to 2-31 overall and 2-24 with the two losses.

Game 1

Waterloo West 000 00 - 0 0 2
Kennedy 307 0x - 10 8 0

W - Hargens. L - Rice.

Game 2

Waterloo West 000 000 0 - 0 2 1
Kennedy 200 020 x - 4 3 1

W - Henry. L - Draeger.

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