

Olson, Good toss shutouts for J-Hawks

Written by Jim Ecker

Thursday, 25 June 2015 22:52 -



The Jefferson J-Hawks have a star pitcher named Alyssa and they also have a star pitcher named Alissa, but don't be confused.

No matter how you spell their names, it spells victory.

Alyssa Olson tossed a four-hit shutout as Jefferson blanked Kennedy, 2-0, in the first game of their Metro showdown at the Kennedy field Thursday night, then Alissa Good followed with another four-hit shutout in a 9-0 victory.

Olson is 10-3 for the J-Hawks with a 0.97 ERA, while Good is 10-1 with a 1.46 ERA.

"Obviously it's awesome for us," said Jefferson Coach Brian Erbe. "And we have to enjoy them while we have them, because they're both seniors. They complement each other so well."

About 18 years ago, their parents picked names that sound exactly alike but are spelled differently. So who's got the right spelling?

"Definitely me," said Good, laughing. "She's wrong."

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Who's wrong? "Her," claimed Olson, also enjoy a laugh.

Erbe avoids confusion by using nicknames. "It's Oly and Goody," he said.

Olson and Good have developed a mutual admiration society at Jefferson. If there's a rivalry, it's friendly.

"We're always kidding," said Olson. "We sit next to each other in practice. We're friends. We're out on the mound together when we take defense."

Their friendship could be tested next year in the Iowa Conference. Olson is headed to Coe and Good will attend Buena Vista, so they could pitch against each other at some point in their college careers.

"We're gonna," Good predicted.

College is several months away for the two right-handers. In the meantime, they have some unfinished business at Jefferson.

The J-Hawks have lost tight games in the first round of the Class 5A state tournament each of the last two years, falling 2-0 to Ottumwa in 2013 and 2-0 to Southeast Polk last year.

"The seniors especially, we know we've been there twice. We were so close in that first game," said Olson. "We're ready to go, to be there and go for it all."

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"It's the No. 1 thing I want to do," added Good. "I want to get back there and get some good games and come out on top this time."



Thursday's doubleheader had all the makings for a classic showdown, with Jefferson ranked No. 6 in Class 5A and Kennedy ranked No. 7, but the J-Hawks made it a long night for the Cougars. Olson and Good did the heavy lifting, but Jefferson also got timely hits and played well on defense.

Erin Kuba sparkled for the J-Hawks at third base. She collected 10 assists in the twinbill with her quick glove, quick feet and strong arm, foiling Kennedy's slap hitters and bunters.

Hannah Towns and Olivia Erickson had RBIs for Jefferson in the 2-0 victory in the opener. Lindsey Culver went 2-for-3 with a double. Tianna Drahn and Paige Timmerman both went 2-for-4 at the top of the lineup for Kennedy in Game 1, but they never crossed the plate.

Tori Brandon, Maddie Hansen, Taylor Holub and Culver had two hits for Jefferson in the nightcap. Avery Guy, Hansen and Culver had two RBIs. Guy scored three runs. Towns, Holub and Culver scored twice.

The sweep lifted Jefferson to 20-5 overall and 15-3 in the conference. Kennedy fell to 15-7 and 11-5.

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GAME 1

Jefferson 000 200 0 - 2 7 2

Kennedy 000 000 0 - 0 4 0

W - Olson. L - Schwartzhoff.

GAME 2

Jefferson 001 114 2 - 9 12 1

Kennedy 000 000 0 - 0 4 3

W - Good. L - McEachran.