

Behn gives Cougars another live arm

Written by Jim Ecker

Monday, 25 May 2015 21:17 - Last Updated Monday, 25 May 2015 21:37



Cedar Rapids Kennedy Coach Bret Hoyer already had a treasure chest filled with excellent pitchers.

Now he has another one.

Jackson Behn tossed six strong innings Monday night as the Cougars topped Marion, 10-1, in the semifinals of the Bob Vrbicek Metro Tournament at Kennedy.

Behn pitched well for the Kennedy varsity as a freshman in 2013, but his family moved to Omaha and he played for Millard South High School last year as a sophomore.

The Behns moved back to Iowa this January and now the Cougars have another live arm to join Blake Hargens, Zach Daniels, Sammy Lizarraga, Jacob Henry, Tyler Dralle and others.

The rich have gotten richer.

"It's good to be back," said Behn. "I'm happy about it."

Kennedy will face Jefferson in the championship game of the Metro Tournament Tuesday at

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approximately 7 p.m. at Washington High School. Marion meets Prairie in the consolation game for third place at 5 p.m. at Washington.

Xavier plays Washington in the seventh-place game at Kennedy at 5 p.m. Tuesday. Linn-Mar meets Mount Vernon for fifth place at Kennedy at approximately 7 p.m.

Behn was touched for five hits and one unearned during his six innings on the mound Monday. He struck out four batters, walked one and got sharper as the game went along.

"I wasn't happy with my command, but I fought through it," he said.

Behn appeared to tire in the sixth inning when he allowed three singles, but he stranded all three runners on base with his fourth and final strikeout.

"I thought he was pretty gutty," said Hoyer. "He wasn't able to locate as well as he wanted, but it was good enough."

Jacob Henry socked a solo home run and had an RBI double for Kennedy against Marion. Daniels collected three singles in the leadoff spot. The Cougars scored seven runs in the fifth inning, turning a tight 3-1 game into a runaway.

Kennedy defeated Xavier, 5-1, in the first round Monday. Hargens tossed a two-hitter for the Cougars with 11 strikeouts. He took a no-hitter into the sixth inning before the Saints got both of their hits and their only run.

"He picked up right where he left off last year," said Hoyer. "He was really good today."

Lizarraga belted a towering two-run homer over the new scoreboard in left-center in the first

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inning when Kennedy scored all five of its runs against the Saints.

Marion defeated Linn-Mar, 8-6, in the opening round to earn city bragging rights.

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