

Eagles face Ellsworth in juco tourney

Written by Metro Sports Report

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WATERLOO - The Kirkwood Eagles have been seeded No.4 and will face Ellsworth in the opening round of the NJCAA Region XI baseball tournament at Riverfront Stadium in Waterloo Thursday morning.

The game is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

Kirkwood enters the tournament with a 29-17 record. The Eagles finished 13-11 in the ICCAC conference to earn the No.4 seed. Ellsworth (22-28) is seeded fifth.

The other opening-round games feature No.1 DMACC vs. No.8 Southwestern at 1 p.m., No.2 Southeastern vs. No.7 Iowa Lakes at 4 p.m., and No.3 Iowa Central vs. No.6 NIACC at 7 p.m.

The double-elimination tournament continues Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday (if necessary).

Kirkwood hit .320 as a team during the regular season and features Sulliam Rios Reyes (.373), Matt Paciello (.372) and Angel Merced (.365). Merced leads the Eagles with five home runs and 43 RBIs.

Cale Henke, Will Ross, Keaton Blackford and Shawn Simmons have all won four games for the KCC pitching staff.