

John Marshall Rockets

*Baseball
Section Playoffs*

2012 Season

Rochester Post Bulletin:

Rochester schools looking for spot in Red Wing

Posted: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:53 am

The three Rochester public-school baseball teams all find themselves in a similar position heading into the Section One, Class AAA playoffs.

When Mayo, John Marshall and Century play well, they're as tough to beat as any team in the section. When they're not playing well, they're quite beatable.

"Mayo and Century, they're both great teams when they play well, and we're in that same boat, too," John Marshall coach Dutch Heiderscheid said. "But when things don't go well, it's tough. What it's going to boil down to is throwing strikes and playing good defense."

Red Wing (18-1) earned the top seed in the section after a great run through the Missota Conference. The Wingers' lone loss was to Chanhassen on May 2. It's a loss they avenged eight days later.

The Wingers advanced to the Final Four on their home field last season and are looking for two straight trips to The Athletic Field.

"They have had a great season," Century coach Keith Kangas said. "They were in the Final Four with a young team last year, so most of those kids are back. They've got a good pitcher and they seem to hit the ball well. They'll be tough to beat."

The Wingers open the postseason — all first-round games are at 1 p.m. Saturday, at the higher seed's home field — against No. 12 Hastings (3-17). The Raiders always are dangerous in the postseason after playing a grinding regular-season schedule. They came out on the wrong end of many one-run games this season.

The Raiders also have extra motivation — their head coach, Paul Hartmann, is a Red Wing graduate. "Yeah, that's a tough draw right off the bat," Heiderscheid said. "But that's how the section is this year. I won't be surprised if anyone wins. Any team that gets hot could win."

Heiderscheid's Rockets earned the No. 2 seed, and they'll host No. 11 Faribault (5-15), a team they swept during the regular season.

If the Rockets and Wingers win, they'll both receive byes into the Final Four as the top two teams remaining after Saturday get automatic bids into the Final Four.

That puts Heiderscheid in a great spot. He can throw ace Ryan Lakin, without having to worry about playing a game Monday to get into the Final Four.

"Yeah, some of those guys will have tough calls on whether they want to use their top guy on Saturday or if they save him until Monday," Heiderscheid said. "But we're in a good spot."

Century (14-6) is the No. 3 seed, and the Panthers host No. 10 Austin (6-14) on Saturday. The Packers and Panthers played a doubleheader last weekend. The Panthers came out on top both times, but both were one-run games. Kangas said he has not yet decided if he will use ace Mitch Brown against Austin or if he'll save Brown for a possible Monday game. "Austin's a young, scrappy bunch," Kangas said. "I just don't know yet what we'll do. We'll wait until Friday and make a decision. We're confident in both (Matt) Sturchio and Mitch (Brown)."

Mayo (13-7) locked up the No. 4 seed, and the Spartans host No. 9 Farmington (7-12) on Saturday at Mayo Field. Much like John Marshall, Mayo enters the postseason riding high after knocking off Brown and the Panthers late in the spring.

"That definitely doesn't hurt us," Mayo coach Dan Hoefs said. "I know nothing about Farmington, but we're like the other teams in that if we pick the ball up, we can do some things. We lack that true bonafide ace pitcher that Century and JM have, but Steve Serratore has developed into a great pitcher for us, and we feel like the top of our lineup is as good as any in the conference."

Owatonna (12-8) is the No. 5 seed and hosts No. 8 Albert Lea (11-9), while Winona (12-8) is No. 6 and hosts No. 7 Northfield (12-7).

Rochester Post Bulletin:

Baseball | John Marshall 12, Faribault 4

Posted: Monday, May 28, 2012 9:02 pm

Two big innings were enough for the Rochester John Marshall baseball team during Monday's opening round of the Section One, Class AAA baseball tournament at John Adams Middle School.

The No. 2-seeded Rockets scored six runs in the first inning and six more in the fifth and held on for a 12-4 victory over No. 11 Faribault.

With the victory, the Rockets receive an automatic bid into the Section 1AAA Final Four at the Red Wing Athletic Field. The Rockets will play an opponent to be determined at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

"We got through the first game; it wasn't a thing of beauty," JM coach Dutch Heiderscheit said. "We had two big innings, and Jack (Kall) and Alex (Brady) knocked some runs in and that helped."

The Rockets scored six runs in the opening inning, but Faribault roared back with four in the second to make a game of it. The Rockets pulled away with the big fifth inning.

JM starter Ryan Lakin didn't have his best stuff, but he got the win. Lakin struggled with control, walking six batters in six innings. He also allowed eight hits and finished with four earned runs and five strikeouts.

"Ryan didn't have his best stuff today, but we held them scoreless for five of the innings he pitched," Heiderscheit said.

Kall had a big game at the plate, going 3-for-4 with three RBIs. Brady was 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Aaron Grad, Daniel Frey and Sammy Broman added two hits apiece for the Rockets.

Faribault 4, John Marshall 12

Faribault#040#000#0#—#4#8#4

JM#600#060#x#—#12#16#0

Faribault: Tanner Tousignant 2-for-3; Danny Pierce 2-for-4.

John Marshall: Aaron Grad 2-for-5; Daniel Frey 2-for-3; Jack Kall 3-for-4, 3 RBIs; Alex Brady 2-for-4, 3 RBI, 2 R; Sammy Broman 2-for-3, 2 R. WP: Ryan Lakin 6 IP, 8 H, 4 R, 4 ER, 6 BB, 5 K.

Rochester Post Bulletin:

All three Rochester teams advance in 1AAA

Posted: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 6:51 am

All three Rochester baseball teams in the Section One, Class AAA tournament are still alive after the opening round.

Century punched its ticket into the second round with Saturday's win over Austin.

The Panthers found out their opponent after Monday's action. No. 3-seeded Century will host No. 7 Northfield at 5 p.m. today at Century High School. The winner will move on to Thursday's Section 1AAA Final Four at the Red Wing Athletic Field.

Northfield moved on by upsetting No. 6 Winona, 3-1, on Monday.

Rochester Mayo and John Marshall earned spots in the second round with big wins on Monday.

The No. 4 Spartans scored early and often against Farmington, rolling to a 10-0 win in five innings at Mayo Field.

Mayo's Steve Serratore tossed a one-hitter, and he smacked two hits to pace the Spartans.

Mayo (14-7) advances to face No. 5 Owatonna (13-8) at 7:30 tonight at Mayo Field.

The game will start after the Rochester Lourdes game wraps up; the Eagles host Pine Island in the opening round of the 1AA playoffs.

John Marshall scored six runs in the first inning and added six more in the fifth, earning a 12-4 win over No. 11-seeded Faribault at John Adams Middle School.

The Rockets got big games at the plate from Jack Kall and Alex Brady, and Ryan Lakin did enough on the mound to get the win.

With the victory, the Rockets earn an automatic bid into the Section 1AAA Final Four as the No. 2 seed. The Rockets will play at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Red Wing Athletic Field against an opponent to be determined.

Top-seeded Red Wing also moved into the Final Four with its 7-1 win against Hastings on Monday. The Wingers will play the 5 p.m. Thursday game against an opponent to be determined.

Rochester Post Bulletin:

Rockets win rubber match against Century

Posted: Friday, June 1, 2012 7:33 am

RED WING — The first two times the Rochester John Marshall and Century baseball teams met this season, Rockets ace Ryan Lakin and Panthers ace Mitch Brown were on the hill battling it out. But Brown and Lakin both pitched Tuesday, so neither standout was available for Thursday's rubber match in the opening round of the Section One, Class AAA Final Four at the Red Wing Athletic Field.

That meant someone other than the staff aces would have to get the job done. Alex Brady stepped up for the Rockets, and Matt Sturchio for the Panthers.

Both pitched well, but Brady's defense picked the ball up behind him and the Rockets got just enough offense to earn a 3-0 victory.

JM advances in the winners bracket to face top-seeded Red Wing (20-1) at 1:30 p.m. Saturday back at The Red Wing Athletic field Century falls to the losers bracket and will face Owatonna at 11 a.m. Saturday in an elimination game. The loser of the 1:30 p.m. game and the winner of the 11 a.m. game will square off at 4 p.m. in another loser-out game.

With neither ace pitcher available, JM coach Dutch Heiderscheit figured Thursday's game could be high-scoring. But that's not what transpired.

Instead, Brady threw strikes and put the ball in play. The Panthers hit the ball hard, but it more often than not was right at a Rockets fielder.

"Yeah, I felt we hit the ball well, they just made the plays in the field," Century coach Keith Kangas said. "We had confidence in Matt Sturchio, and he threw well, but he just wasn't able to get that breaking ball over the plate. Offensively, I felt like we had chances almost every inning. We just didn't capitalize."

The game's only offense came in the third inning, when the ROckets were able to do all of their damage with two outs. Brady started the rally with a single. Courtesy runner Matt Cyr scored when Jake Kirsch ripped a double on the next at-bat. Ryan Lakin's double scored Kirsch, and Lakin came around to score on Aaron Grad's RBI single. "We strung a couple hits together there, and that's all we needed," Heiderscheit said. "I didn't expect this type of game at all. Century's a good team. I figured they'd hit the ball. And really, they hit it hard, but it was at people, and we relied on our defense a little bit."

Brady rolled into the seventh inning with that 3-0 lead, allowing just three hits to that point. He ran into some trouble in the final frame, allowing the first two batters to reach base. Heiderscheit was quick to turn to his ace, Lakin. He came in and shut the door, earning the save by retiring three straight.

Heiderscheit said that won't stop Lakin from throwing Saturday. "No, he's good to go," he said.

The Panthers ended up with more hits (five) than the Rockets (four), but they also committed four errors, while the Rockets had just one.

Sturchio paced Century at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a stolen base. On the mound, he tossed six innings, allowing three runs on just four hits while striking out eight. Century faces elimination in the first game Saturday, so Kangas said Brown will be on the mound with the season on the line. "It's going to be a different kind of Saturday, with all four teams throwing their top guys," Kangas said. "Obviously, we're confident with Mitch on the mound. We'll see what happens. We have to start hitting the ball, no matter who's pitching."

John Marshall 3, Century 0

Century#000#000#0#—#0#5#4

JM#003#000#x#—#3#4#1

WP — Alex Brady. LP — Matt Sturchio. SV — Ryan Lakin.

2B — JM, Jake Kirsch, Ryan Lakin. SB — Century, Matt Sturchio, Mitch Brown. RBI — JM, Kirsch, Lakin, Aaron Grad. R — JM, Alex Brady, Kirsch, Lakin.



Century's Matthew Sturchio slides safely past John Marshall's Ryan Lakin on a steal of second Thursday in Red Wing.

Rochester Post Bulletin:

JM stays alive in 1AAA tournament

Posted: Monday, June 4, 2012 6:22 am

RED WING — In a perfect world, the Rochester John Marshall baseball team isn't playing in the 4 p.m. game last Saturday at the Red Wing Athletic Field.

But in the long run, it worked out just fine for the Rockets.

Though the Rockets were bumped into the losers bracket of the Section One, Class AAA tournament after an ugly 10-0 loss to Red Wing earlier Saturday, that loss meant Matt Broman would be on the hill in an elimination game against Owatonna.

And Broman knows the Huskies well. He shut them down for nine full innings of no-hit ball during a regular-season marathon game.

Broman worked his magic again Saturday, guiding the Rockets to a 2-1 victory that kept JM's season alive. The win means JM will get another shot at Red Wing in the Section 1AAA finals at 5 p.m. Tuesday back in Red Wing. The Rockets must defeat the Wingers twice to advance to state.

Broman allowed just two hits in seven innings Saturday. But the Rockets needed some last-inning heroics to get Broman the victory.

With the game tied 1-all heading into the final frame, the Rockets got something going with singles by Kaeleb Stangler and Zach Schwieters, who was making his first start of the season. After a walk to Alex Brady, Jake Kirsch delivered the game-winning hit, driving in pinch-runner Dan Frey for the 2-1 victory.

"I'm so glad we got it done in the seventh for Broman," JM coach Dutch Heiderscheit said. "He wasn't coming back out for the eighth. So there was a chance he could have thrown 16 innings of two-hit ball against Owatonna and not factored in either decision. When he's on, he's on. He mixes his pitches very well."

Broman said the previous performance against Owatonna gave him confidence Saturday.

"I was still nervous, though," he said. "It was all on the line. The season's over if we don't get it done. But luckily there was good defense behind me, and we were able to (extend the season)."

The Rockets scored their only other run without a hit in the first inning. Brady was hit by a pitch to start off the game. He stole second and moved to third on Kirsch's sacrifice. Brady scored on Ryan Lakin's sacrifice fly.

Owatonna scored its run in the fourth off a walk, a wild pitch and an RBI single by Colton Schock, who was the hard-luck losing pitcher. Schock was strong on the mound, allowing just five hits, three of which came in the final inning. He struck out nine.

Broman finished with two strikeouts. He walked three.

"We're excited for another shot at Red Wing," Broman said. "We were able to have a short memory today and bounce back and stay alive. We can't make those mistakes against Red Wing again."

Rochester Post Bulletin:

Wingers a win away from first state trip since 1977

Posted: Monday, June 4, 2012 6:26 am

RED WING — From the second it took the field Saturday afternoon, the Red Wing baseball team walked with a swagger.

The Wingers are a confident group. Meanwhile, the Rochester John Marshall Rockets seemed to lose every bit of confidence they had in the fourth inning of Saturday's Section One, Class AAA semifinal game at the Athletic Field.

The Rockets committed four errors in the fourth inning, leading to nine unearned runs and eventually a 10-0 loss in five innings.

The Wingers haven't been to the state tournament since 1977, but now they're one win away from playing at Midway Stadium in St. Paul on June 14.

"That went well; hopefully we can keep it going and get one more," Red Wing coach Jim Bohmbach said. "This team definitely is playing with a lot of confidence. We just can't get too confident and let up at all."

JM will get another crack at the Wingers, though. After the Rockets downed Owatonna in the losers bracket, they earned a spot in Tuesday's section-title game back at The Ath at 5 p.m. JM must beat the Wingers twice to advance to state, though.

Even if the Rockets hadn't booted the ball around in the fourth, it would have been tough to score off Red Wing ace Zach Garner, who was outstanding Saturday.

Garner allowed just two hits in five innings, and no JM batter made it past first base. Garner finished with seven strikeouts and did not walk a batter.

"Zach was great," Red Wing junior Ryan Boldt said. "He's done that all year, though. I think he only threw like 50-some pitches, so he could be available for Tuesday, too, if we need him."

While Garner was shutting down the Rockets, Boldt was jump-starting the Red Wing offense. With his speed, he can single-handedly manufacture runs.

Boldt did just that in the wild fourth inning. He singled, then stole second, then third, and he came home when the throw down to third sailed over the third baseman's head.

"Boldt can do that for us," Bohmbach said. "If he gets on base, he's able to create a lot of offense with his speed." Boldt had just one hit, but he walked twice and had three stolen bases.

Joel Newman paced the Wingers, going 2-for-3 with a run scored and two RBIs.

JM starter Ryan Lakin looked sharp early. He rolled into the fourth inning having allowed just one hit. But the JM defense fell apart in the fourth.

Rockets outfielders dropped two balls, and two different throws got away from infielders. The ugliness ended with nine Red Wing runs on the board; all nine Red Wing batters scored and five different players hit twice.

For a team that has been solid defensively for much of the season, it was an uncharacteristic demise.

"I did not expect that at all," Bohmbach said. "They've looked very solid. But I think the bottom line is we were able to take advantage when they gave us extra chances."

Though he did not allow an earned run, Lakin was lifted after seven runs crossed the plate. He allowed four hits in four innings, three coming in the fourth. Matt Cyr got the final two outs of the inning, and Thomas Mulvey allowed the 10th run in the fifth inning on a walk-off walk by Mike Stegora.

Red Wing improved to 22-1.

Red Wing 10, JM 0

JM#000#00#—#0#2#4

Red Wing#000#91#—#10#7#0

WP — Zach Garner. LP — Ryan Lakin.

SB — RW, Ryan Boldt 3. RBI — RW, Zach Garner, Mike Stegora 2, Dillon Lewis, Joel Newman 2, Dayton Johnson. R — RW, Garner, David Goggin, Boldt, Stegora, Ty Buck, Newman, Jack Strusz, Johnson, Preston Blaney, Aaron Foley.

Rochester Post Bulletin:

Wingers a win away from first state trip since 1977

Posted: Wednesday, June 6, 2012 10:56 am

RED WING — After 34 years of futility, it stands to reason that Red Wing's path back to state wouldn't be easy. John Marshall held up its end of that bargain Tuesday night by hanging a four-spot on the Wingers in the first inning.

However, Section One's top seed rallied back — highlighted by Mike Stegora's inside-the-park homer in the decisive sixth inning — to claim an 8-5 victory that secures Red Wing's first state tournament berth since 1977.

"There's no quit in those guys," said JM coach Terry Heiderscheit, whose team finished 18-7. "They've got moxie. That's why they're region champs."

JM senior Jacob Kirsch had a two-run single in the first, and finished 2-for-4 with three RBI. But the Rockets missed out on opportunities to break the game open early. JM stranded eight runners over the first five innings, including five in scoring position, as Red Wing starter Joel Newman and reliever Dayton Johnson, who earned the win, continually navigated in and out of trouble.

Newman struck out Matt Broman to escape a bases-loaded jam in the top of the third and give the Wingers a boost of much-needed energy. They promptly responded with two runs in the third, three in the fourth and three more in the sixth. "When we got down 4-0 in the first inning, I knew this team wasn't going to lay down and die," Red Wing senior Mike Stegora said. "It was just a matter of time before we broke out."

That was especially true for Red Wing's cleanup hitter. He struck out twice Saturday against JM's Ryan Lakin and had just four hits in his last 26 at bats. Given a second chance Tuesday against Lakin, Stegora finished 4-for-4 with five RBI and a critical two-run, inside-the-park homer in the bottom of the sixth inning — immediately after JM intentionally walked standout Ryan Boldt.

Classmate David Goggin finished 3-for-3 with two RBI, while Boldt was 1-for-3 with an RBI and stolen base. "They just hit the ball hard," Heiderscheit said of Red Wing's lineup, which features five lefties in the first six slots. "They have that string of lefties and they all kind of look the same after awhile."

While the southpaw sluggers put up big numbers, it was a right-handed freshman who helped close the door. Red Wing's Ty Buck came off the bench to lace a rally-starting single in the sixth inning and then struck out two in a scoreless seventh inning to secure the save. He flipped a slow roller to first base for the final out that started the celebration.

"I always imagined going to state as a little kid," Buck said. "I mean, I still am a little kid, but state will just be awesome." The fifth-ranked Wingers are riding a 13-game winning streak, which is the longest in Class AAA. The 22 wins is also a program record. They'll open the state tournament 3 p.m. June 14 at Midway Stadium against No. 14 Eastview, the Section Three champion.

The team, which embraced the motto of "unfinished business" this spring, expects to spend the next few days reveling in the historic accomplishment before refocusing its energy. "Since the end of last year, this is what I've been looking forward to," Goggin said. "It's finally here and we captured the moment." Added Stegora: "Red Wing is a pretty big baseball community. Playing in the Final Four, we could feel how special it was for our community and our school. We weren't really playing for ourselves, we were playing for them. We're not going to stop here. We still have unfinished business at state."

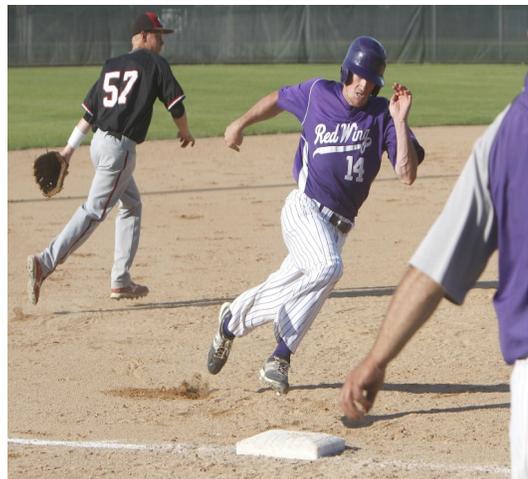
Red Wing 8, John Marshall 5

JM 400 100 0— 5 11 3
RW 002 303x—8 10 1

WP — Dayton Johnson. LP — Ryan Lakin. S — Ty Buck
SB — RW, Ryan Boldt. RBI — RW, Mike Stegora 5, David Goggin 2, Boldt. JM, Jacob Kirsch 3, Ryan Lakin, Jack Kall.



Rockets Jack Kall dives back to first ahead of the throw and tag attempt of Jack Strusz of Red Wing in the section 1AAA championship Tuesday.



Red Wing's David Goggins rounds third Tuesday in Red Wing against Rochester John Marshall.

2012 All-State & All-Conference local HS players

06/19/2012, 11:44am CDT

Local players selected All-State

Rochester Century Mitch Brown 12
Rochester Mayo Steve Serratore 12
Rochester Lourdes Jason Samuelson 11

Local players selected All-Conference

Big 9 All-Conference

Rochester Century Mitch Brown 12
Rochester Century Matt Sturchio 11
Rochester Century Riese Zmolek 9
Rochester JM Ryan Lakin 12
Rochester JM Aaron Grad 11
Rochester JM Alex Brady 11
Rochester Mayo Steve Serratore 12
Rochester Mayo Christian Rosenow 11
Rochester Mayo Kyle VanWettering 12
Rochester Mayo Brad Mathiowetz 10

Big 9 All-Conference Honorable Mention

Rochester Century Cal Bjerke 12
Rochester Century Mitch Gade 11
Rochester Century Jordan Jasik 10
Rochester JM MATT BROMAN 12
Rochester Mayo Jordan Essig 12

Hiawatha League All-Conference

Rochester Lourdes Jason Samuelson 11
Rochester Lourdes Zach Scheckel 12