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## WIAA state baseball: De Pere runs out of magic

By **Scott Venci**

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GRAND CHUTE — It was fun while it lasted.

After crushing Racine Horlick 10-0 in a WIAA Division 1 state quarterfinal game on Tuesday morning at Fox Cities Stadium, the De Pere baseball team appeared confident it could win its first state title.

Those hopes were dashed on Tuesday night, though, in a 5-3 loss to Wisconsin Lutheran.

The loss ends a remarkable season by a Redbirds squad that started 4-4 in the Bay Conference, only to win its last eight league games to grab a share of the title with Seymour.

The Redbirds took a 2-0 lead in the first inning, but the momentum didn't last. A normally strong defense committed three errors, while the offense disappeared.

"It's the same old, same old all the time," said De Pere coach Dennis Riddle, whose team was making its fourth trip to the state tournament and second in the last three years. "In high school baseball, it's walks, wild pitches, errors that score eight out of 10 runs.

"I know two (runs) were directly on errors on our part."

De Pere (20-5) had scored at least six runs in each of its last 10 games, but Vikings pitcher Ryan Welch settled down after the first inning.

The 6-foot-2, 170-pound right-hander, who went 6-2 with a 3.52 earned-run average during



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De Pere second baseman Jeff Riddle, left, and right fielder Andy Newhouse collide in the outfield during the Redbirds' WIAA Division 1 state semifinal game against Wisconsin Lutheran at Fox Cities Stadium in Grand Chute. Corey Wilson/Press-Gazette

Advertisement

### WIAA state baseball tournament

Fox Cities Stadium, Grand Chute  
Division 1

Tuesday's quarterfinals

- De Pere 10, Racine Horlick 0, 5 inn.
- Wisconsin Lutheran 8, Middleton 6
- Eau Claire Memorial 4, Madison Memorial

the regular season, tossed a complete game and allowed just four hits over the last six innings. The senior picked off two De Pere runners at first base.

"(After a two-run first), I was like, 'This is it. We are hot right now. There is no stopping us,'" shortstop Charlie McGinn said. "And then the bats kind of cooled down, he didn't walk anyone and we had a few bad base-running mistakes."

"He knew he wasn't going to strike everyone out, but he let his defense work and threw strikes."

The Vikings (17-7) knocked out De Pere starter Jared Yost in the third inning after scoring two runs to tie the game in the second. Yost gave up two singles and a run to start the third before Cory Gloe relieved.

Gloe immediately allowed an RBI single to Jason Rick, but shut down the Vikings the rest of the way. He allowed one unearned run and three hits in five innings.

"Cory Gloe came in and did a great job," Riddle said. "He held them right there, but give their pitcher credit. He shut the door on us after the first inning."

Down by three in the bottom of the seventh, the Redbirds attempted to stage a dramatic rally like the one engineered against Bay Port in a sectional semifinal last week, when they scored seven runs in the sixth inning to tie the game before winning it in the seventh.

But after Cory Williams reached second on a single and an error by the left fielder, Welch got McGinn to fly out to right field and struck out pinch-hitter Nick Geisen.

After walking infielder Jeff Riddle and allowing an RBI single to Yost, Welch closed the door on the game, and the Redbirds' season, by getting designated hitter Brent Jorgensen to fly out to left.

While disappointed, the Redbirds were taking solace in the way they finished the season.

0  
Sun Prairie 3, Manitowoc 1  
Tuesday's semifinals  
■ Wisconsin Lutheran 5, De Pere 3  
Sun Prairie 11, Eau Claire Memorial 1  
Championship  
Thursday  
Wisconsin Lutheran (17-7) vs. Sun Prairie (20-5), 6 p.m.

Division 2  
Semifinals  
Today  
Medford (17-6-1) vs. Portage (18-4), 6 p.m.  
■ West De Pere (17-7) vs. Waupun (18-5), approx. 8 p.m.  
Championship  
Thursday  
Semifinal winners, 3 p.m.

Division 3  
Semifinals  
Today  
Osseo-Fairchild (21-3) vs. Waterloo (19-5), 1 p.m.  
Pittsville (21-1) vs. Kenosha St. Joseph (18-5), approx. 3:30 p.m.  
Championship  
Thursday  
Semifinal winners, noon

Division 4  
Semifinals  
Today  
Shell Lake (10-12) vs. Barneveld (18-5), 8 a.m.  
Abbotsford (20-1) vs. Green Lake (20-2), approx. 10 a.m.  
Championship  
Thursday  
Semifinal winners, 9 a.m.

"Words can't describe the tournament run we have had and the second half of the season," McGinn said. "That was just amazing. We never quit. We never gave up."

Wisconsin Lutheran 022 100 0 — 5 7 2

De Pere 200 000 1 — 3 6 3

WP: Ryan Welch. LP: Jared Yost. Leading hitters: DP – Charlie McGinn, 2x3; Brent Jorgensen, 2x4; WL – Alex Johnson, 2x4; Jason Rick, 2x4.