

BREDS

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of the first inning to take an early 2-0 lead.

The Breds got back one of those runs in the bottom of the first, narrowing the gap to 2-1.

In the bottom of the second, Harrison Co. tallied five runs to give Harrison Co. a 6-1 advantage.

Nicholas Co. closed the deficit to 6-4 with two runs in the top of the third.

Nicholas County freshman Bentley Crump walked to lead off the top of the fourth, which is when the extended suspension of the game began.

When the contest resumed, the Blue Jackets chopped the Breds' lead to 6-5.

That's when the Harrison Co. offense came to life, erupting for nine runs in the bottom of the fifth. to set the final score at 15-5.

HARRISON CO. VS. SCOTT HIGH

With its 13-game winning streak on the line, Harrison Co. had to face a determined convocation of Scott High Eagles on the hilltop last Friday, May 9.

Through the first nine innings, the game became a pitchers' duel between Thorobred junior Simon Jenkins and the Scott High duo of senior Brady Smith and sophomore Jay Race. Although the contest was tied at 4-4 going into the tenth frame, none of the runs were earned with the two teams combining for nine errors.

Despite Jenkins throwing successfully, retiring nine of the last 10 batters he faced, the Harrison Co. hurler was taken out because he was approaching the daily limit of pitches he could throw. Smith was removed from the mound after throwing the first six frames for similar reasons with Race pitching the last four innings.

Thorobred freshman Brock Coy was brought to the

mound in just his third appearance of the season to pitch in the 10th inning. The Eagles took advantage of Coy's inexperience, touching him up for six runs in the 10th frame with Scott High eventually winning 10-5.

It was also Senior Night on the hilltop and the five seniors associated with the baseball program were honored prior to the start of the contest. Kaylee Fields (statistician), Jashon Lewis, Keene Price, Boston Reynolds and Brian Vaughn were joined by their families on the field during the ceremony.

Harrison Co. took an early 2-0 lead with a couple of unearned runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Down by a deuce in the top of the fifth, Scott High took the lead with four runs that were allowed to cross the plate courtesy of two errors committed by the Breds.

The Breds tied the score 4-4 in the bottom of the sixth frame with the help of some shoddy defense by Scott High.

Heading into the top of the 10th inning, momentum took a major swing toward Scott High with the Eagles achieving a 10-4 advantage.

Persinger drove in a run with a double to left center field in the bottom of the 10th frame to set the final score at 10-5.

HARRISON CO. VS. BEECHWOOD

At the David Iery Tournament at Beechwood last Saturday, Harrison Co. ran into a couple of strong pitchers who were at the top of their games in the double header. Beechwood senior Chase Flaherty and Bullitt East senior Garrison Miller both did something that very few other pitchers have done this season.

Flaherty gave up only four singles while Miller surrendered just six base hits.

Offensively, Harrison Co. missed out on several chances to score, going 1-for-10 with runners in scoring position in the 4-0 loss to Beechwood

and 1-for-7 in the 7-0 defeat at the hands of Bullitt East. In each of the setbacks, the Breds were able to get only one runner to third base.

In the opener of the one-day tournament, the host Tigers scratched across four runs against Harrison Co. ace Brian Vaughn, representing the most tallies he had given up in a single game in his last seven starts going back to the loss to Cooper on March 21.

In the bottom of the third, Beechwood dented the scoreboard for a 1-0 lead.

With two outs in the last of the fourth, Beechwood plated two more runs, extending the Tigers' advantage to 3-0.

Beechwood picked up an insurance run in the sixth inning to set the final score at 4-0.

HARRISON CO. VS. BULLITT EAST

In the consolation game of the David Iery Tournament, Harrison Co. faced another formidable opponent in Bullitt East who had lost to Great Crossing 7-4 in the first round.

Although the Breds had a tough time scoring, they were able to keep the Chargers within striking distance behind starter Cooper Slade who pitched well before faltering in the sixth inning.

Meanwhile, Harrison Co. was shut out for the second game in a row and suffered its third straight defeat following a 13-game winning stretch.

Bullitt East jumped out to an early lead with three runs in the first two frames.

The Chargers tacked on another tally in the bottom of the second, increasing Bullitt East's advantage to 3-0.

That's the way the score would remain until the Chargers put the game away with four runs in the bottom of the sixth, setting the final score at 7-0.

The Breds dropped to 25-5 while Bullitt East improved to 20-8.

COMBS

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learned that the cut had been moved down to even par...again where he sat. So just like the hole before, Combs steeled himself and set out to play a clutch 18th hole.

"I was iffy about it, but I knew I had to birdie again to avoid a playoff," explained Combs. "My caddie David Korona and I were confident. My pitching wedge on hole 18 was 20 feet short of the hole on the green. I hit the putt and it went in and I birdied. I got to the clubhouse and they told me I was in by two shots.

"Shooting 71 with two doubles and a bogey...had I not had them, I could have shot a 66 which would have won by 3 shots. 69 won the whole thing. But golf is a game of ifs ands and butts."

Hitting a long putt on the last hole of a tournament is something every young golfer imagines when practicing at their home course or even on a mini-golf course. It's one thing to make a big putt when playing for fun, but another

thing entirely when there's something riding on it.

"The ball was halfway to the hole and I walked toward it with my club up in the air and felt like Tiger," joked Combs. "Couldn't have hit a better putt. You know, the goal for every golfer is to have a putt on 18 to win a major or send it to a playoff or make a cut. But to be in that position where, 'I have to make this,' and you do it, it's so fulfilling. It's a crazy thing. A lot of people say it's boring, but they just don't get it."

Golf is a mentally taxing game. That's the bad side of golf that nobody gets to see except those experiencing it firsthand. Look at Jordan Spieth winning a Masters tournament just to play one bad hole and never play the same way.

Or Tiger Woods enduring scandals in the 2000's and not playing right for years until his Augusta comeback in '19. Golf is a game of the mind as well as the body. And Combs overcame his nerves to play one of the best, most important rounds of his career.

"It's fulfilling...I'm playing in the Kentucky-Am," noted Combs. "It's nice to see the hard work paying off, it really

is. I don't think it'll be as physically demanding as it will be mental playing 5 straight days. I've got a wrist injury flaring up, but as long as I can get past that, I should be good. I think it'll be more mentally taxing.

"I used to play 90 plus holes a day. I think my body can handle it, but it depends on my performance at the country club invitational. That means more to me than anything, I want to win it so bad. If I can get momentum there, I can play at the State Am. If it's not enough, you've gotta move on."

That said, nerves will still be in play at the Kentucky Amateur. But Combs hopes they will drive him and not hold him back, as they have so many golfers before him.

"Standing on the first tee of the State Am, I'm sure there'll be nerves," admitted Combs. "But I'm getting better at letting it not get the best of me, but fueling me. You can't get too comfortable playing golf either, that's when you make mistakes. But the idea of it has some pressure with it."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There are several fun events coming up in the last half of May you won't want to miss. Mark your calendars!

- Louisville Orchestra in Cynthiana, a free outdoor concert, May 16, at 7 p.m. between Capilla's and the Courthouse

- Stepping Stone Farm's Strawberry Festival, May 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and May 25, noon to 4 p.m., will include strawberry picking, boutique vendors, food trucks, live music, strawberry jam competition, and strawberry festival beauty pageant. 1671 Cynthiana Road, Paris

- Splash Pad Opening Night Event, May 28

- Color Our World Summer Reading Kick-Off, May 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library will include carnival games, food, crafts, prizes and bags with summer reading supplies.

- Harrison County Health Fair, 7 to 11 a.m. at Harrison County Middle School is a free event that includes screenings and tests, such as balance risk assessment, blood pressure, body fat analysis, colorectal cancer screening kits and education; diabetes risk screening, height and weight, lung cancer screening, pulse oximetry, stroke risk assessment, vision screening, cardiac risk assessment, blood tests for cholesterol, triglycerides, blood sugar and thyroid-stimulating hormones and more.

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