

WIAA BASEBALL

Regents rally past Lancers in 7th

Drake Baldwin's sacrifice fly drives in the winner in a regional semifinal victory over La Follette

State Journal staff

All it took to get the party started for the Madison West baseball team on Wednesday was a long fly ball off the bat of Drake Baldwin.

Baldwin, a freshman, hit a sacrifice fly to bring home senior Jack Zukowski with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to give West a 4-3 victory over Madison La Follette in a WIAA Division 1 regional semifinal at Mansfield Stadium.

The Regents (11-12) scored twice in the bottom of the seventh to wipe out a 3-2 deficit. Austin Coltham hit an RBI single to tie the game before Baldwin's walk-off sacrifice fly.

Keenan Woltmann hit a two-run double for West, which will visit Beloit Memorial (17-8) this afternoon in a regional final.

Sam Schmitt and Seth Kok each delivered run-scoring hits to give La Follette (2-21) the lead in the top of the seventh.

Oregon 15, Milton 4 (5)

Jordan Helmkamp had a double and three RBIs as the Panthers (11-15) pulled away from the host Red Hawks (7-12) with a 12-run outburst in the fourth inning.

Five Oregon players collected at least one RBI. Six Milton errors led to nine unearned runs.

Oregon will visit defending state champion Janesville Craig this evening at Riverside Park.

Sauk Prairie sectional

Reedsburg 10, La Crosse Central 7

Nathan Adelman went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs as the visiting Beavers (11-10) powered past the Red Raiders (9-16).

Nate Kruser also hit two doubles for Reedsburg, which will visit Sauk Prairie in a sectional final at 5 p.m. today.

The Beavers scored four runs in the top of the seventh to extend a 6-5 lead.

Holmen 5, Baraboo 1

The Vikings (11-8) scored four runs in the sixth inning to advance past the visiting Thunderbirds.

Jack MacDonald had two hits for Baraboo (11-14).



LARRY ILES - CreativeFoto.net

Madison West freshman catcher Drake Baldwin, left, is lifted by junior teammate Tommy Hill while sophomore Charlie Met and junior Gabe Hill join the celebration after the Regents beat Madison La Follette 4-3 in a WIAA Division 1 baseball regional semifinal on Wednesday. Baldwin drove in the winning run in the seventh inning on a sacrifice fly that sent home senior Jack Zukowski to lift the Regents into a regional final today at Beloit Memorial.

Onalaska 2, Madison Memorial 1

Brayton Duin went 2-for-3 and hit the winning single in the bottom of the seventh as the host Hilltoppers (14-11) held off the Spartans (6-19).

Isaac Blum went 2-for-3 and drove in the lone run for Memorial in the top of the seventh.

DIVISION 2

Monroe sectional

Dodgeville 4, River Valley 3

Jordan Larson pitched six innings, striking out six and allowing four hits, as the visiting Dodgers (16-6) outlasted the Blackhawks (18-5) to advance to sectional play.

Larson went 2-for-3 and hit a double for Dodgeville, and Trent Jones didn't allow a hit in an inning of relief for the Dodgers, who prevented River Valley from earning a repeat trip to state.

Portage 6, Madison Edgewood 0

Senior Jack Nelson pitched all seven innings, striking out 12 and allowing two hits, to lead the visiting Warriors (16-10) past the Crusaders (11-11).

Nelson went 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs for Portage and junior Jakob Kastenholz went 2-for-3.

Senior Cody Link struck out seven over 4 2/3 innings for Edgewood.

Beloit Turner 4, Edgerton 2 (9)

Seth Smith hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift the host Trojans (23-2) over the Crimson Tide (8-13).

Jacob Taylor pitched a complete game for Edgerton, striking out five and allowing seven hits.

Clayton Klubertanz went 3-for-4 with a double to lead the Crimson Tide.

Waupun sectional

Campbelsport 1, Columbus 0

Randon Dauman pitched a complete game, striking out 14 and allowing only two hits, but his host Cardinals (19-5) fell to the Cougars (20-5) in a regional championship game.

Campbelsport's Koy Walsh drove in the game's only run with a double in the top of the second.

Jefferson 2, Lake Mills 0

Cam Anfang pitched six shutout innings, allowing three hits and striking out eight, as the host Eagles (20-6) defeated the L-Cats (9-13).

Anfang also went 2-for-2 and drove in a run for Jefferson.

Brennan Dolwick pitched a complete game for Lake Mills, striking out seven and allowing eight hits.

DIVISION 3

La Crosse Aquinas sectional

Cambridge 4, Wisconsin Heights 2

J.T. Parish pitched a complete game, striking out nine and allowing three hits, as the host Blue Jays (16-7) defeated the Vanguardians (16-8) in a regional championship game.

Nick Frye hit an RBI single to snap a 1-1 tie in the third for Cambridge.

DIVISION 4

Johnson Creek sectional

Pecatonica 4, Shullsburg/Benton 3 (9)

Presley Hauser brought home Riley Gould with a safety squeeze bunt in the bottom of the ninth as the host Vikings (25-1) won a regional title with a victory over the Miner-Zephyrs (14-10).

Brooks Chandler struck out 13 and allowed three runs in seven innings for top-ranked Pecatonica.

Johnson Creek 8, Randolph 4

Nick Williams pitched six innings and struck out 10 as the host Bluejays (15-8) rolled past the Rockets (10-13).

Kaleb Hartwig went 2-for-3 with a double for Johnson Creek, which will host defending state champion Rio in a regional final at 6 tonight.

WIAA SOFTBALL

Neitzel, Verona advance

State Journal staff

The Verona softball team was out to prove it meant business on Wednesday.

That went double — actually, better than double — for senior Nicole Neitzel.

Neitzel clubbed not one, but two home runs to lead the host Wildcats to a 5-0 victory over La Crosse Central in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal.

The victory lifted the Wildcats (21-6) into a sectional final against Holmen (16-12) at 5 p.m. today at Sun Prairie.

A victory for Verona would send coach Todd Anderson's team to the state tournament for the second time in the past three years and the 13th time since 1999.

Verona starting pitcher Quinn Nelson worked out of a jam in the top of the first inning, forcing Central (14-13) to strand two runners on base.

In the bottom of the inning, Neitzel hit her first home run of the day, a two-run shot.

"After that first inning, holding them and not letting them score, was a huge confidence boost," Neitzel said. "And to score in the bottom of the inning, their dugout was dead silent after that and I kind of knew we had the game won."

Verona took a 4-0 lead in the second inning. Neitzel provided some insurance with a solo homer in the fifth.

Nelson struck out four and gave up all four Central hits in 4 1/3 innings. Megan Anderson struck out four in 2 2/3 innings.

La Crosse Central.....	000	000	0	0	4	1
Verona.....	220	010	x	5	7	1

Pitchers (IP-H-R-BB-SO) — Anderson (2.2-0-0-0-4), Nelson (W, 4.1-4-0-1-4), Kramer (L, 6-7-3-1-2).
Leading hitters — V. Neitzel (2x3), ZB — McChesney.
HR — Neitzel 2, LCC: Hayden (2x3).

DIVISION 2

Delavan-Darien 4, Columbus 1

Jennah Speth pitched a complete game and struck out eight as the visiting Comets (23-6), ranked third in the latest coaches' poll, defeated the Cardinals (22-3) in Darien.

Delavan-Darien will visit fifth-ranked McFarland (25-2) in a sectional final at 5 p.m. today.

Brianna Farrington went 2-for-3 for Columbus.

Delavan-Darien.....	000	101	2	4	11	1
Columbus.....	000	001	0	1	5	0

Pitchers (IP-H-R-BB-SO) — Speth (W; 7-5-0-1-8), Kirchberg (L; 6.2-10-4-1-1).
Leading hitters — DD: Gramly (2x3), Lara (2x4), Speth (2x4), ZB — Huber, Speth, C: Farrington (2x3).

DIVISION 3

Poynette 5, Marshall 4

Abby Neabling's solo home run in the bottom of the fifth proved to be the difference as the eighth-ranked Pumas defeated the fifth-ranked Cardinals in Brodhead.

Poynette (22-6) will host fourth-ranked Onalaska Luther (25-3) in a sectional final at 4 p.m. today.

Harlie Jordan had two hits for Marshall (23-4), including a two-run home run in the first inning.

Marshall.....	300	100	0	4	7	3
Poynette.....	101	210	x	5	7	1

Pitchers (IP-H-R-BB-SO) — M. Bredeson (7-7-4-2-6), Bredeson (W; 7-7-4-2-6), Gumz (L; 6-7-4-2-8).
Leading hitters — P: ZB — Brookins, Knuteson. **HR** — Neabling, M: Gumz (2x2), Jordan (2x3), **HR** — J. Neuberger (2x2), ZB — Gumz.

Golf

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among a group of four that finished second at 76.

The Spartans and Cardinals advanced to the WIAA state tournament, set for Monday and Tuesday at University Ridge Golf Course.

Weitz was hot early, finishing the front nine in 2-under-par 34 after putting up consecutive birdies on the second, third and fourth holes.

"My irons were doing really well and I was able to get some birdies," Weitz said. "Things definitely started out well."

Weitz struggled some on the back nine, recording four bogeys and a double-bogey on the par-3 15th. He finished with a 41 on the

back nine.

"The back nine was definitely a little work. I had a little trouble here and there, a bad chip shot, and it added up," he said.

But the back nine was where O'Loughlin and Andringa rose, shooting 33 and 35, respectively.

O'Loughlin, the Spartans' No. 1 player, made three chip-ins, including one for an eagle on the par-5 No. 12. Andringa bogeyed No. 11, but got birdies on Nos. 10 and 13 and finished his round with five consecutive pars.

"Jacob was struggling with putting, but Jack was draining some putts on the back," Weitz said.

Middleton, which led the area with a fifth-place finish at state last year, had to grind its way to a state berth. Reedsburg held the overall team lead at the turn, scor-

ing 154, but Middleton teamed up for a 151 on the back nine to move into the final team qualifying spot.

Senior Emmet Herb led the Cardinals with a 76, including an even-par 36 on the front nine. Senior Brady Thomas shot even-par 36 on the back nine for a 77.

Advancing to state as individuals were Reedsburg sophomore Dylan Brown (76), Baraboo senior Dawson Hinz (77) and Verona sophomore Garhett Kaegi (77).

Watertown sectional

DeForest shot 318 to edge Monona Grove by one stroke at par-70 Watertown Country Club for the second and final Division 1 state team berth, behind champion Lake Geneva Badger's 312.

DeForest's No. 5 player, senior Steve Mulcahy, led the Norskies with a 77 that included a 2-over 37 on the front. Junior No. 1 player Matt Unger shot a 78.

Monona Grove sophomore Jake Schroeckenthaler earned co-medalist honors with a 74, tying Badger senior Luke Bourneuf. Fort Atkinson senior Bentley Glass advanced with a 75.

After Sun Prairie freshman Ethan Carrick and junior Carter Simon tied for the final individual spot with 78s; Carrick won a playoff to advance.

Onalaska Luther sectional

Madison Abundant Life/Country Day missed out on a Division 3 team berth by two strokes, shooting 340 to finish behind team qualifiers Mondovi (338) and Cochrane-Fountain City (340).

However, Challengers senior Andrew Maier shot a 7-over 79 at River Run Golf Course in Sparta to earn an individual state berth.

Also making it to state as individuals were meet medalist Mitchell Steiner of Argyle/Pecatonica, a senior who shot a 1-over 37 on the back nine to finish at 2-over 74, and Lancaster junior Josh Hentrich (76).

Masson

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before. She knows how to manage her energy. When it comes down to it, she's a competitor."

She also savors the big stage. "I really do like the environment," said Williams, who also took first in the Division 2 200 and second in the 100 in 2014. "I like seeing all the people in the stands, and having everyone watch you run. It's a big rush. I hope I can do everything I did last year."

Williams doesn't own a top seed in any of the events based on sectionals, though she is second in the long jump and fourth in the 200. All she can do, she said, is "do what I do best — run." A victory would enable her to join a short list of girls who have moved up a division and won or been victorious in multiple divisions.

"You want to have an idea who is who, but if you don't take care of what you can do, it doesn't matter who else is there," McIntyre said.

Williams sat out an April meet in Sun Prairie for precautionary reasons after slightly injuring her quadriceps. The quad hasn't bothered her since and Williams has turned in outstanding performances.

"It's been a pretty impressive year for her," McIntyre said. "She hasn't disappointed."

Williams said the 200 and long jump are her stronger events.

"It takes me a while to fully accelerate in the short distances like the 100," she said.

She was first in the 100, 200 and long jump at the Badger North Conference



TRAVIS HOUSLET - Capital Newspapers

Mount Horeb's Nadia Williams, center, won the 200 at the Badger North Conference meet last month. It was her fourth straight conference title in the event.

meet, the fourth consecutive season she was conference champion in three events.

She holds school records in the three events — 12.21 seconds in the 100, :25.07 in the 200 and 19 feet, 9 inches in the long jump. She also owns the Badger North records — :12.42 in the 100, :25.15 in the 200 and 18-10 1/4 in the long jump — in the same events.

She broke the conference marks in the 100 and 200 this season and leaped 19-9 in

the long jump at regionals. That jump was third-longest in state history for the girls, according to WisconsinTrackOnline.com. It surpasses the state record of 19-8 1/2, but state records only can be set at the state meet.

"She has the school record in the 100, 200 and long jump and it wouldn't surprise me if she broke two or three (school marks) at the state meet," McIntyre said. "So, it's not too shabby of a year."

McIntyre said Williams' postseason efforts could foreshadow a big state meet.

"I see her coming to the state meet, and with the crowd, and with the adrenaline, I see her blowing right past those times," he said.

After high school, Williams will compete in track and field at Central Michigan, studying biology with the hope of becoming a wildlife biologist. She's interested in studying animals in their natural habitat.

"I absolutely love lions," she said. "When I was young, I always watched the Animal Planet Channel. I loved going to the zoo."

Williams, 17, is scheduled to room in college with Jefferson track and field standout Mikaela Grant and two others. Grant said Central Michigan coach Mark Guthrie, a former University of Wisconsin assistant and longtime UW-La Crosse coach, put Williams and Grant together based on similar personalities.

That room assignment might change, however, because Nadia Williams said her twin sister, Jasmine, who also competed for Mount Horeb, recently was accepted at Central Michigan and plans to walk on in track and field.

"Just to see her success over four years

has been a pleasure," McIntyre said. "I have two daughters, an 8-year-old and a 2-year-old, and my older daughter asked if Nadia and Jasmine were seniors. I said, 'Yes,' and she said, 'What are you going to do next year?'"

Good question. For now, he'll worry about how Nadia Williams does at the state meet.

"My philosophy at this point is 'less is more,'" McIntyre said.

"I'll say a couple little words of assurance and encouragement. She knows how to get the job done."

McIntyre will miss Williams, whom he considers one of Mount Horeb's most accomplished female track and field athletes. Another championship will tie her with Peggy Barry for the third-most individual state titles in school history, behind the eight apiece owned by state track Hall of Famers Rachael Anderson and Lena Van Haren.

"As good as an athlete she is, she is just as good of a person," McIntyre said. "She is nice, humble, works hard and is very gracious in victory."

That will remain her approach no matter the outcome at the state meet.

"My mindset is to stay humble and just go out there and do what I have done," she said. "Track is my first love. I will always love it."

Rest assured, she'll do the best she can at the state meet.

"I'm really excited for it," Williams said. "It's the last year. I might as well go big or go home."

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