

Day One Recap

Columbus, Neb. – Day one of the 2011 Class “A” Area Six Juniors Baseball Tournament saw three teams take different routes on way to first-round victories on Friday afternoon.

In game one, Grand Island Wells Fargo coupled timely hitting with a pair of key Columbus Reds’ miscues en route to a 6-3 victory.

After three scoreless innings to begin the contest, a fielding error in the top of the fourth turned a potential double-play into a two-on, no-out situation. Beau Johnson took advantage of the situation for Grand Island, stroking a two-run double to deep right center to open the scoring. G.I. would follow with four more runs in the following inning, thanks in large part to an RBI double off the bat of Brandon Bachle.

The Columbus Reds returned fire in the top of the sixth, as an RBI-single by Cole Fullner and a two-run base hit by Austin Patzel pulled the host team within striking distance. However, the Reds would strand runners on second and third to finish the sixth, and did not threaten in the seventh.

Game two saw a different story, as after spotting Norfolk Elkhorn Valley Bank a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning, Grand Island Five Points Bank rattled off 19 unanswered runs, to take a 19-2 decision ended by the mercy rule in the fifth inning.

Every starter in the Five Points line-up reached base at least twice in the contest, as the second-seeded team in the tournament posted eleven hits and drew thirteen free passes. Jalen Larson picked up the victory, going four innings and allowing just three Norfolk hits.

The nightcap saw Fremont First State Bank make it a clean-sweep for the higher-rated teams, as they took an 11-4 decision over the Columbus Reds. Jacob Weinrich, Fremont’s starting pitcher, endured a pair of rally-killing double plays to help nail down the victory.

The Reds also contributed to their own defeat in the field, committing five errors in six innings of defensive work. Fremont was able to score three unearned runs which helped propel them to their eventual victory.

Day two action will feature an elimination game, followed by a pair of winner’s bracket contests. Norfolk and the Columbus Blues will lead things off at 1 PM, followed by an all-Grand Island matchup at 3:30, and capped off by top-seeded South Sioux City taking on Fremont at 6 PM.