

OSU: Bullpen finishes tournament with a 1.95 ERA

Continued from 1B

ner in tournament history — and allowed two runs in 21 innings with 23 strikeouts.

After throwing an inning of relief in Wednesday’s 5-3 victory, Abel came back to fire a two-hit shutout in the best-of-3 championship series finale. The heroic 129-pitch effort included 10 strikeouts and just two walks.

“I thought it was incredible that he did it so easily,” coach Pat Casey said of Abel’s first complete game in college. “To sit down 20 batters in a row to end the College World Series and never throw more than 15 pitches in an inning (down the stretch), just a remarkable performance.”

The bullpen wasn’t needed Thursday, but OSU’s Brandon Eisert, Jake Mulholland, Christian Chamberlain, Dylan Pearce and Abel combined to throw 37 innings in relief at the CWS. Heimlich (9⅓ innings, 11 earned runs) and Fehmel (9⅓ innings, seven earned runs) made three starts apiece and were surprisingly ineffective.

With its staff leaders scuffling, the bullpen allowed just nine total runs and finished the eight-team tournament with an ERA of 1.95.

“Those guys were the best they’ve been in any stretch this year,” Casey said. “We struggled with the pen half-way through the year, and to see what Eisert in particular did was just outstanding. But

we didn’t really have anybody that didn’t do their job out of the pen, and that gave us the opportunity to win those games.”

Eisert worked 14⅓ innings in three appearances, allowing three earned runs with 14 strikeouts and two walks. Mulholland pitched in four games and surrendered just one run in seven innings. Chamberlain struck out 15 in 9⅓ innings, including an 11-strikeout effort as OSU suffered a 4-1 loss to Arkansas in the championship series opener.

The Razorbacks, who led the SEC in hits, runs scored and home runs, fanned 38 times in the finals.

“Coach (Nate) Yeskie, (Pat) Bailey and Casey do a phenomenal job of scouting and watching film,” Abel said. “SEC teams like to swing early, so when you can overlay that with the fastball, you are going to get a lot of outs. ... If I got strike one, I could use my weapons.”

Abel mostly threw fastballs and changeups to befuddle Arkansas, occasionally mixing in a curveball for a different look. He estimated that catcher Adley Rutschman stole about 25 strikes by framing borderline pitches for home plate umpire Joe Burleson, who had a consistently generous zone all game.

Arkansas finished the series 14 for 95 (.147) with just four extra-base hits, all doubles.



Oregon State’s Brandon Eisert (37) prepares to throw against Arkansas during the fourth inning in Game 2 of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals.

“We knew they were going to be hunting a lot of fastballs and we knew we had to change speeds,” Casey said. “And our kids executed. If you are a pitcher that gets behind and has to throw them fastballs in fastball counts, it’s dangerous. We were able to spin them, change speeds and change directions.”

Abel went seven innings June 23 as OSU secured a spot in the finals with a 5-2 victory over Mississippi State, striking out five with three walks on 95 pitches. He threw 23 pitches in relief Wednesday night but felt fresh enough to go the dis-

tance the following day.

Late in the game, Heimlich and Mulholland were warming up in the pen if Abel began to tire. He never did.

“I was pulling for him the whole time,” Heimlich said. “I wasn’t pressing to go in, I was just making myself available. It’s not about me. We came here to win a national championship, and that’s what we did.”

A few national media members, including Dan Patrick and Keith Law, criticized OSU for allowing Abel deliver 247 pitches in a six-day span.

Abel had thrown just 60⅓ innings all season entering the CWS and wasn’t taxed down the stretch against Arkansas. Casey said he had “no response” to the pitch count critics.

“He threw easy and he never had any stress issues whatsoever,” Casey said. “That stuff usually comes from the fact that someone doesn’t want to see us win.

“Shoot, he threw 129 pitches, guys do that all the time. He was nowhere near at his capacity with the way he was throwing, everything was pretty much fastball and change.”

LEGION: Pepsi drops two straight

Continued from 1B

Hodgen Distributing will head back to Washington on Thursday to play in the Spokane Tournament.

Diamondjaxx struggle, drop two straight

After splitting its first two games at the West Valley Tournament in Yakima, Washington on Friday, the Pepsi Diamondjaxx dropped each of their final two games over the weekend. On Saturday the Diamondjaxx fell to the host West Valley 12-6, and then lost 12-3 to the Kennewick Phantoms on Sunday.

Against West Valley, Bryson Murray finished 3-for-4 with a triple and a run scored, Blake Swanson was 2-for-4 with a triple and two RBI, Blaine Peal was 2-for-3 and Michael Flores was 1-for-1 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored.

Then against Kennewick, the Diamondjaxx managed just seven hits and all but five came from the 3-4-5 hitters in the lineup of Jackson Shumate, Swanson and Peal. The trio combined to go 5-for-5 with a double, a triple, three RBI, two runs scored and a walk.

MORE WINNERS. MORE OFTEN.

\$80,000

Super Summer Cash Bash!

WIN \$100 CASH
& Power Hour entry
Thursdays – Sundays
6-9pm

WIN \$15,000 CASH
Grand Prize Drawing:
July 29

WIN \$1,000 CASH
9pm Power Hour
Drawing

5X ENTRIES

EARN 5X ENTRIES EVERY WEDNESDAY IN JULY!

SUPER SIZZLIN' HOT SEATS

Slot players win up to \$500 CASH!
Fridays & Saturdays
Every 30 minutes | 10pm – 1am

Win \$100 in CHIPS at tablegames hot seats!
Thursdays | Every 30 minutes | 10pm – 1am

50X ENTRY MULTIPLIER

July 4th
4am – Midnight

CASINO • HOTEL • GOLF • CINEPLEX • RV • MUSEUM • DINING • TRAVEL PLAZA
800.654.9453 • PENDLETON, OR • I-84, EXIT 216, wildhorseresort.com. Owned and operated by CTUIR
Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time.

WILDHORSE
RESORT & CASINO