

# Trojans triumph over Warriors in semifinals

*In defensive battle, Kennedy baseball gets 1-0 victory over North Douglas*

By Zach Silva  
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

The best North Douglas baseball season in the last quarter-century came to a difficult end on Tuesday night. In the state semifinals at Kennedy High School, it was the Trojans (28-2) squeaking out a 1-0 victory over the Warriors (22-7) to advance to the 1A/2A championship.

"You have to be proud of what we accomplished," said North Douglas head coach Jeff Davis on his team that made the semifinals for the first time since 1995. "At the moment this hurts like the dickens, in particular for our seniors."

In the semifinal, it was a game of defense. And more specifically, a game where both starting pitchers – North Douglas junior Colter Anderson and Kennedy's Josh Valladares – set the tone. While each team's scorebook had a different number of hits recorded,

what can be agreed on is that number was quite low.

North Douglas finished the game with two hits as a team and the Trojans had either one, according to the North Douglas scorebook, or it was a Warriors' no-hitter, and an error on the play, according to the Kennedy scorebook.

The lone-hit – or error – occurred in the third inning on a short-hop hit by Cameron Biegel that got past the North Douglas shortstop. Biegel stole second on a passed ball and got to third off of a sacrifice bunt. On the bunt, no one from North Douglas covered first and the Trojans had runners on the corners, and then promptly second and third after a steal, with no outs.

A line drive to shortstop Brian Erickson on the next at-bat almost resulted a double play that would have got the lead runner out. Instead, Biegel was safe at third and scored on a grounder to Erickson on the next play.

"That's it. To be honest, that's kind of been our MO all year," said Kennedy head

coach Kevin Moffatt on his team being able to capitalize on miscues. "The first two rounds the other team kicked the ball a little bit, we didn't hit too well. We knew that North Douglas would not kick the ball. I thought we hit a little better today but their kid, he threw a jam. He's got good movement on his fastball, nice curveball. They're just good."

Moffatt continued, "Their shortstop is a dude, their centerfielder – best arm I've seen. They've got some guys on that team. And again, they're really well coached. They make you game plan differently because [head coach] Jeff [Davis] is always doing the little things right."

For the Warriors, the team had its best chance to score in the third inning. After Anderson reached base via a walk and stole second, Tyler Kallinger hit a ball deep to center field that was scooped up by a sprinting Bruce Beyer in for an out to end the inning.

"The ball Kallinger hits, in the gap, that gets down against another team," said Davis. "In a game that you

know is going to be tight, that's huge. And that's what we've heard, they're going to pitch pretty well and defend well."

"The play that the Beyer kid made, he's kind of been that guy since his sophomore year, he's been pretty darn good. And that was as good of one as he's made," said Moffatt. "And we're not super-fast in the outfield but we seem to get pretty good jumps on it and move around a little bit. We're pretty happy when they put it in play. As long as we don't walk people we feel pretty comfortable that we're going to have a chance to win."

As the North Douglas defense continued to stand pat, the offense came up with hits from Austin Frieze and Koldan Frieze in the sixth and seventh inning respectively. While the team applied pressure, it was never enough to break through as Kennedy secured a shutout to advance to the championship.

"Man, you've really got to tip your hat to those guys. They are really well coached, really good defen-



North Douglas pitcher Colter Anderson controlled the game from the mound for the Warriors. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA

sive team. That was a hell of a game. That's how a state semifinal should be," said Moffatt. The Trojans will now face Umpqua Valley Christian, a team North Douglas beat twice this season, in Friday's final.

Pained by the loss, North Douglas senior Cal Parks was able to put the team's historic season in perspective.

"If somebody would have said we were going to the semis and had a chance to

go to the state championship match at the beginning of the season, I probably would have chuckled at them and thought, not with this team. We're a little young. But these guys are fighters," he said. "What a run we've made just for the little ol' town of Drain to have such a good season. It's just been a fun season."

In Friday's championship game, UVC defeated Kennedy 10-5 in nine innings.

# North Douglas stuns Monroe in quarterfinals



During a dominant offensive performance, North Douglas junior Tyler Kallinger safely slides into home. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

By Zach Silva  
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

All season Monroe was dominant.

The Dragons (23-2) scored more runs than any team in the 1A/2A classification and won games by over 10 runs 16 times this season. And last Friday it was North Douglas (22-6) going on the road to face this dominant team.

"When confidence grows, you don't care who you're going to play," said

North Douglas head coach Jeff Davis of his team after the game. "Otherwise you're scared to come up here. And we're not, I don't think we're scared of anybody right now. We're playing really well."

The Warriors turned that confidence into high-powered offense and strong pitching as it was North Douglas pulling off a state quarterfinals upset over Monroe with a 12-3 victory.

Wasting no time, North

Douglas, capitalizing on Monroe errors, put a run on the board in the first inning. The Dragons answered right back with a run of their own in the first while putting on a hitting display as each batter put the ball in play.

"First inning, it bothered me a little bit but I realized that I have defense behind me, they can make plays for me and I don't have to strike everybody out," said North Douglas pitcher Bri-

an Erickson. "As long as I throw strikes and get the ball in play, our defense can do the job and we can just do what we did. And that momentum carried to our side and we started scoring runs and making plays."

Erickson gave up just three hits on the day as he struck out four and walked two. He pitched for 6 1/3 inning in order to make sure he was under the pitch count so that he would be able to pitch on the upcoming Tuesday semifinal.

While Erickson was holding down the Monroe bats, it was the North Douglas hitting that sprung to life. The Warriors finished with 12 hits in the game with contributions from up and down the roster.

"Well, the old saying is hitting is contagious. And the middle of our lineup has been swinging it pretty well the last two weeks but we've told these guys all along that they're capable,

top to bottom, of getting the ball in play and making things happen," said Davis.

Cal Parks went 2-for-4, Wyatt Beckham was 2-for-5 and three RBIs while Koldan Frieze was 1-for-two with three walks and three runs. Leading the way for the Warriors was lead-off Tyler Kallinger who went 3-for-4 and scored four runs.

"The main point for the last week has been hitting because we haven't really collectively hit good as a group. Like put everything together. That's what we practiced all week and we came through," said Kallinger. "We always try to attack. First pitch, fastball and that's what we're waiting on and we saw quite a bit of those and jumped on them today."

After adding a pair of runs in the third inning, North Douglas poured it on in the fourth as they took advantage of the Monroe pitching change and

scored three more runs as they hit through the lineup.

It was a similar story in the sixth inning as the team capitalized on multiple bases loaded situations. The Warriors continued to put the ball in play and capitalized on errors and aggressive base-running.

"We took some chances but when you're ahead you can put the pressure on the other guys. And we made them do things that I'm sure they're not accustomed to do because, you know -- we've benefitted from, and no disrespect to them, but playing some pretty good teams in our league," said Rice.

With the win, the Warriors are headed to their first baseball semifinal since 1995.

"It's crazy. I had never imagined we would be doing this," said Beckham. "It's awesome to play another day with these kids. I couldn't be any happier."

- Backer DDS
- Birch Avenue Dental
- CG Physical Therapy
- Chvatal Orthodontics
- Cetera Financial
- Coast Fork
- Emerald Fitness Club
- Dave's Place
- D&D Auto
- Grocery Outlet
- Cottage Grove Garbage Service
- Jim's Point S Tire Factory



- NW Community Credit Union
- Oregon West RV
- Patriot Mortgage
- South Lane Fire And Rescue
- South Valley Athletics
- Starfire Lumber
- State Farm
- Village Green
- Williams & Mathis
- Cascade Home Center
- Lane Community College

## South Valley Athletics Summer Sports!!

June 5th • June 12th • June 19th

South Valley Athletics  
SUMMER CAMPS AND ADULT SOCCER!

ADULT SOCCER (for anyone 15 years and older)  
Register by June 9th • \$45 per person (no team fee)  
Bring your own team or register individually and play on the house team!

VOLLEYBALL for kids entering 3rd thru 6th grade  
Register by June 10th • \$40

CHEER for kids entering K thru 6th grade  
Register by June 28th • \$40

TENNIS for kids entering K thru 12th grade  
Register by July 26th • \$50



Check our website for more information! Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!  
Or call/text us at 541-942-3079.

## COME EXPERIENCE OUR NEW LASER

Dentistry  
without  
anesthesia



S O L E A



BRENT BITNER, DDS

DENTISTRY WITH FAMILY IN MIND

CALL US TODAY!

541.942.7934

350 E. WASHINGTON AVENUE • COTTAGE GROVE

WWW.CGSMILES.COM