

SPORTS

Clinton DY runs out of luck, time at state tourney

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Clinton's never-say-die O-Zone Dixie Youth All-Star Baseball Team rolled through four straight elimination games at the state tournament in Union, but a fifth game - and a rematch with its fourth conquest - finally proved too much to overcome.

A controversial call in the bottom of the sixth inning of the final game for Clinton didn't help matters, either.

Jy Leake was called back to the plate after what appeared to be a hit-by-pitch was changed to a ball in the bottom of the seventh, and three pitches later Leake struck out swinging with the potential winning run on second base, allowing Hartsville to escape with a 6-5 victory in the second of two games between the teams Wednesday at the Timken Sports Complex in Union.

The loss ended a streak of four elimination-game victories for Clinton and ended its hopes for a state championship series appearance. Hartsville advanced to play Midland, the Deaton Bracket winner, in the state championship series starting July 20 in Moncks Corner. The series is best-of-three.

Tuesday
Clinton 12, North Myrtle Beach 2: The Clinton offense has

rolled through the competition following its first-round loss to North Myrtle Beach, and in doing so got revenge by eliminating NMB in Union.

Caleb Taylor and Bryce Young each homered in the game, part of a 15-hit attack by Clinton. Taylor went 2-for-4 hitting with three RBI, including his solo homer, while Young also had a solo homer in a 3-for-4 performance. Young also scored two times.

Zane McLendon had three hits and three runs scored, driving in two runs, and Jy Leake went 3-for-4 with a double, an RBI, and a run scored. Carson Glenn went 2-for-3 with two RBI and a run scored as well.

Wednesday
Clinton 7, Hartsville 3 (Game 1): Faced with another win-or-go-home contest, Clinton's offense did its job - and forced the immediate rematch.

McLendon went 2-for-3 with a double, homer and three RBI to help lift the Clinton offense, while Taylor also had two hits - including a solo homer. Tanner Kyko also was 2-for-2 on offense, scoring once and driving in one run.

Caleb Taylor earned the victory with three innings of work. He allowed a run on three hits, walking two, while striking out five. McLendon went 2 2/3 innings,

giving up two runs on two hits and a walk, striking out five, before Young finished off the last one-third of an inning to force the rematch.

Hartsville 6, Clinton 5, 7 innings (Game 2): While much of the attention will be paid to the call in the bottom of the seventh, Hartsville would not have got there had it not scored single runs in the fifth and sixth to tie the game and force extra innings, then scored once in the top of the seventh to take the lead for keeps.

And Clinton had its chance to win before Leake's at-bat in the seventh, too. Kason Copeland singled to lead off the inning, then moved to third on a pair of stolen bases with nobody out. but Carson Glenn and Lee Malone both struck out to put Clinton one out from elimination.

Tanner Kyko then drew a walk to extend the game, and later moved to second on a stolen base to put Clinton within a well-placed single of victory. That's when Leake, on a 1-2 pitch, appeared to get on base by being hit by a pitch. The home plate umpire, however, ruled Leake had turned into an inside curve-ball to get hit, and ruled Leake had to continue his at-bat. Clinton Head Coach Graig Glenn appealed the ruling, but

was denied.

"When it happened I appealed the call and had the umpires talk to each other," Glenn said. "They just didn't overturn it."

Glenn also said Leake did what he is coached to do in that situation, to turn his body to avoid being hit.

Back in the box after not being awarded first, Leake fouled off the next two pitches before striking out swinging to end the game.

Taylor had three hits and an RBI for Clinton, while Leake went 2-for-4 hitting with an RBI.

Clinton's Zane McLendon suffered the loss, allowing three runs on six hits in 2 2/3 innings of relief. McLendon struck out two and walked two others.

COLLEGE

Santos, Portugal advance: Presbyterian College rising sophomore Tess Santos scored six points and pulled down eight rebounds in 40 minutes of play Wednesday as the Portuguese National Team advanced in the FIBA U-20 Women's European Championship with a 61-46 victory over Poland in Sopron, Hungary.

Portugal advanced to play either Italy or Slovenia in Thursday's quarterfinal round contest, needing one more victory to guarantee at least two more



Submitted Photo

GREAT RUN — The Clinton O-Zone Dixie Youth All-Star Baseball Team saw its hopes for a state title end Wednesday with an extra-inning loss to Hartsville in Union.

games - a semifinal today (Saturday) and either a third-place game or championship game Sunday.

Aiden Bragg, 27; 3. (tie) Beau Hite and William Addison, 31.

10-12: 1. Seth Massey, 47; 2. Cameron Addis, 48; 3. (tie) Ethan White and Maddox Lee, 52.

13-14: 1. Elliott Kinney, 40; 2. Adam Fennell, 41; 3. Spence Hagood, 43. Other locals: 6. Javi Carles, 47.

15-18: 1. Logan Pope, 38; 2. Jacob Cathey, 40; 3. (tie) Ryan Champaigne and Brett Pate, 41. Other locals: 10. Collin Harlan, 46; 12. Bailey Goode, 53.

Girls

7-9: 1. Mia-Gloria Carles, 20; 2. Hannah Carles, 40.

10-12: 1. Gabriela Carles, 45. 13-18: 1. Sofia Carles, 41; 2. (tie) Phoebe Carles and Johnna Magaha, 42; 4. Zoe Carles, 44.

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