

Zephyrs tie home run record in win at Greeley

Goodwin ties single-season mark with 13th homer

By JEREMY WOZNICK
Star-Herald Sports Reporter

GREELEY, Colo. — The WESTCO Zephyrs senior legion baseball team celebrated the Fourth of July weekend with plenty of offensive fireworks in a 17-9 win over Greeley Gojo Sports on Sunday in Greeley, Colo.

In the process, the Zephyrs also managed to tie two home run records. Nate Goodwin blasted his 13th homer, which pulled him into a tie with Nate Fullerton for the single-season record. The Zephyrs also received home runs from Tre Meier and Zac Rada to tie the team record for homers in a season with 35.

“It’s pretty exciting,” Zephyrs coach Mark Moran said of the records. “For Nate to be able to hit 13 home runs in just 39 games is pretty good. Then hitting 35 home runs as a team is a big number for a legion team.”

Moran said his team’s power numbers all season have been surprising.

“I knew we had a good offensive team coming back,” Moran said. “But with the bats being toned down more this year, I thought we might hit maybe 15 or 20. So, this is very surprising. Our guys just keep hitting them.”

In the win, the Zephyrs pounded out 17 hits. Six of those were the extra-base variety.

In addition to belting his record-tying homer, Goodwin also hit two doubles. He finished the game going 4-for-4 with six runs batted in.

Goodwin has drove in a team-leading 64 runs this season. The club record is 75.

Meier also finished with a double, drove in five and scored three runs.

Also for the Zephyrs, Rada, Joe Sanchez and Dylan Busskohl finished with two hits each. Eric Moreno and Connor Wilburn both scored three runs, while Sanchez, Goodwin and Busskohl all plated two runs each. Rada and Sanchez drove in two runs.

The Zephyrs trailed 9-8 through three innings before scoring four runs in the fourth and five more in the fifth.

Beau Lofink picked up the win on the mound. Lofink improved to 5-1 on the season with the win.

“I thought we played great,” Moran said. “We hit the ball all over the place. Beau did a nice job on the mound even though he gave up nine runs. He pitched really well against a very good offensive team. It was a good win for us against one of the top teams in Colorado.”

The win by the Zephyrs stopped Greeley’s nine-game winning streak.

Things didn’t go as smoothly for the Zephyrs in the second game of the doubleheader as Greeley recorded a 17-0 win.

Meier and Brian Colburn mustered WESTCO’s only two hits. Meier’s hit was a double.

Wilburn took the loss on the mound. Colburn and Buskohl also saw pitching action in the game for the Zephyrs.

“In game two they got an early lead on us and they pitched a really good kid that we weren’t going to score a bunch of runs off of,” Moran said. “That one kind of got away from us.”

Now 27-12 on the season, the Zephyrs will be back in action today at Alliance. It will be the second meeting of the season between the two teams in the span of a week. The Zephyrs rallied for a 9-7 win over the Spartans on Wednesday at Cleveland Field in Scottsbluff thanks to Dan Harshbarger’s sixth-inning double.

Moran expects another tight contest tonight.

“They had the lead on us late in the game a week ago and we were fortunate to get a big hit from Harshbarger to win it,” Moran said. “I’m expecting another close game.”

The junior-senior doubleheader is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

Game One

Zephyrs 152 45 — 17 17 1

Greeley 045 00 — 9 10 1

WP — Lofink (5-1). LP — Wedgewood.

HR — Goodwin, Meier, Rada. 2B — Goodwin (2), Meier, Krause, Psyzgoda.

Game Two

Zephyrs (27-12) 000 00 — 0 2 2

Greeley (23-11) 24(11) 0x — 17 19 2

WP — Coldiron. LP — Wilburn (2-4).

3B — Krause. 2B — Meier, Krause, Arebalo, McCartney, Schlagel.