

First inning haunt Carroll in loss to Carlisle

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A lethargic looking Carroll High baseball team spotted visiting Carlisle five runs in the top of the first and never recovered, ultimately falling to the Wildcats 7-0.

The Tigers played three games in the Carroll Invitational over the weekend, perhaps accounting for some of the team's struggles Monday night.

"I think it was more mental fatigue than anything else," said Carroll head

coach Dirk Troutman. "They're kids and physically they could recover, but mentally to get up for that many games in a short period of time is tough."

Carlisle pitcher Chris Sampson made sure his infield got plenty of practice by keeping the ball down and inducing Carroll hitters into hitting the ball on the ground all night. He went the distance allowing no runs on just four hits.

"I was able to get a lot of ground balls by hitting my spots and moving the ball down," said Sampson. "My last game I left a lot of pitches up and I didn't have a real good outing, so my strategy tonight was definitely to keep it down."

Carroll starter Kyle Semprini found himself in a world of trouble early after a hit batsman, an error and a single gave Carlisle the bases loaded with no one out in the opening frame. Wildcat center fielder DeMarcus Taylor then hit a hard ground ball down the third base line that just glanced off the glove of Tiger third baseman Greg Schulz, allowing two runs to score and giving Taylor a stand-up double. Left fielder Nathan Parker followed with a single, plating Taylor and Spencer Worthington, and wound up on third after center fielder Addison Patrick misplayed the ball. Parker then scored on Sampson's ground out, giving the Wildcats a 5-0 advantage and capping the

scoring for the inning.

Carroll threatened in the third and fourth innings, but each time Sampson managed to escape.

With runners on first and second and one out in the third, Patrick ripped Sampson's 1-1 offering right at Wildcat shortstop Jordan Flaws who made the catch and then stepped on second to double off designated hitter Nick Behm.

In the fourth, Carroll used two walks and an error to load the bases with one out, but again Sampson worked his way out of the jam. He got Semprini to pop out to first and then got Adam Klocke to bounce out to third to end the threat.

Carlisle added two insurance runs in the fifth when Taylor tripled in Worthington, who had doubled, and then scored one pitch later when first basemen Matt Fleshner mishandled Parker's ground ball.

Semprini settled down after the first, allowing the seven runs on eight hits, while striking out four over seven innings.

Taylor led the offense for the Wildcats (6-4) by going 2 for 4 with three rbi and two runs scored. Behm was the only player with multiple hits for Carroll (10-5), going 2 for 3 with a pair of singles.