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Carroll rallied just in time in the Class 3A sub-state game.

The Tigers scored in the top of the seventh inning to beat Creston 5-4 Wednesday and advance to the state baseball tournament for the first time in the program's history.

Adam Klocke raced home with the winning run when lead off batter Addison Patrick stroked a sacrifice fly to right center. Klocke started the inning when hit by pitch and was sacrificed to second by

designated hitter Nick Behm. He went to third on a passed ball and scored on Patrick's one-out sacrifice fly. Patrick fouled off a squeeze attempt and a two-strike pitch before delivering the RBI.

"I knew I wasn't going to leave them out there," Patrick said of the Tiger base runners. "Everybody knew we could do it."

Carroll (24-9) scored two runs in the first inning, then left bases loaded over the next three. They stranded 12 runners total.

"Man, that was frustrating, and it wasn't like we were having bad at-bats," Carroll coach Dirk Troutman said. "We were hitting some hard balls at them, so our kids never pressed, they never gave into them."

Troutman said he wasn't worried when Creston tied the game in the sixth inning. The Tigers were tied in their opening round victory over Jefferson-Scranton, a game they won 7-5. They scored four runs in the sixth inning to upset fifth-ranked Harlan in the district final.

"We stranded a lot, but we had confidence that we were going to get a base hit," Troutman said. "We just kept on battling."

Creston (18-15) tied the game at 4-4 when Dane Wardenburg pinch-hit a single past first base to score courtesy-runner Jared Johnson. Johnson was running for G.G.

Harris, who had reached on a walk.

After regaining the lead in the top of the seventh, Carroll called upon ace Greg Schulz, who threw a complete-game shutout Monday against Harlan, to finish the game.

"Coach asked and I told him I could go nine (innings) tonight if they really wanted me, too," Schulz said. "My arm - everyone thinks it's supposed to be sore, but when you get out there and need three outs to get to state - I don't think you can complain about anything."

Third baseman Kyle Semprini, Carroll's starting pitcher, grabbed a hopper by Keith Petersen and made a spinning throw to first to start the seventh. Kyle Pals lined out to short stop Chase Steinkamp and Schulz fanned Austin Berry to end it.

Carroll took a 4-1 lead in the fourth when Ben Gossett tripled to deep right-center and scored on an error when the second baseman overthrew third.

The Tigers 2-0 lead in the first inning was aided by an error on a pickoff attempt, a dropped fly ball in right field and a pair of walked batters.

On defense Carroll had a pair of standout plays by catcher Marc Hempstead. Hempstead, a three-year starter behind the plate, backed up an overthrow at first and gunned down Tyler Miller at second for the final out in the second inning. He fired the ball to second again

in the sixth and threw out the tying run for the final out of the frame.

Hempstead was one of many Tiger players and fans who took in the moment around the stadium after the game's final out.

"I've never been to state in anything - in four years of playing four sports," Hempstead said. "It's fun to make it, especially being a senior in the last sport ever."

"It's just amazing, we've had great teams all four years I've been a part of it, but we've never been able to do it," Schulz said of the state berth. "This team is special, it's senior-led and it's just great."

"It's amazing," added Ben Gossett, one of eight seniors on the Tiger team. "It's even more special to go your senior year."

Matt Fleshner said, "It's unbelievable, there's not anything to describe it, it's just awesome. It will be a lot of fun, something to look forward to - not everyone gets to play down there."

Carroll will play at Principal Park in Des Moines Tuesday, July 25 at 6 p.m. against Marion (25-11) in the third of four 3A quarterfinal games that day. The semifinals are Friday at 12 noon and 2 p.m. The championship is Saturday, July 29 at 6 p.m.

"It's hard to get a grasp on it," Troutman said of his first state tournament club. "They are such a nice group of kids and they've had so much

fun this year - it's a great reward for them. It's something they will be able to remember for the rest of their lives.

"We'll try to get something done at state - the field is wide open. We feel pretty good with the way we're playing."

Game Statistics  
 Carroll vs. Creston

	R	H	E
Carroll	2	0	1
Team	0	0	1
LOB — Carroll:	12;	Cres-	ton: 5
Doubles — Pals, Creston			
Carroll RBIs — Gossett,			
Schulz, Patrick			
Carroll multiple hitters —			
None			

	IP	H	BB	SO	R	ER
Steinkamp	1	1	0	0	1	0
Pals .....	3	0	2	1	1	0