

# Carroll loses in disputed game

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DES MOINES - Carroll lost twice Friday at the state baseball tournament.

The Tigers fell to Western Dubuque on the field and later lost a protest disputing Bobcat pitcher Billy Schmitt's eligibility.

Immediately after the game, the Iowa High School Athletic Association upheld a protest by Carroll coach Dirk Troutman following a 5-3 semi-final loss.

Troutman protested the use of the Western Dubuque ace in the seventh inning. Schmitt pitched nine innings Wednesday morning in a 2-1, 10-inning win over Saydel. IHSAA rules stipulate that any player who pitches in nine innings must be followed by two full days of rest.

Western Dubuque and Saydel were originally scheduled to play Tuesday evening, but rain forced postponement of that game until 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Western Dubuque appealed to the IHSAA Board of Control, which reversed the original decision. The Bobcats successfully argued that the IHSAA rule book never specified what constitutes a day - 24 hours, or a traditional calendar day. The board said that the intent of the rule for two full days of rest was to protect pitchers, and 48 hours met that requirement. It was 48 hours 27 minutes from the end of the Western Dubuque-Saydel game to the start of the Western Dubuque-Carroll game.

"The young man did not pitch with less than 48 hours rest. That was the basis of the decision of the board," IHSAA executive director Rick Wulkow said. "In the boards' deliberation, a day is 24 hours."

Wulkow said specific wording regarding the length of a day would be written for the rule next season.

Had the decision in favor of Carroll stood, the Tigers would have advanced to the championship game

by forfeit because Western Dubuque would have used an ineligible player.

Schmitt, 10-0 with an ERA of under 1.00, came on in the seventh with his team already up 5-3 and closed the door to get the save. After Schmitt had thrown a pitch, Troutman stopped play and talked to home plate umpire Rob Stiles.

"They said they couldn't do anything about it, the umpire couldn't do anything about it now, that they would have to get with the official scorer after the game and see what happens," Troutman said.

Both teams players and coaches remained at the ballpark for nearly four hours after the game, anxiously awaiting their fate.

Western Dubuque jumped out to an early 4-0 lead with one run in the first and three runs in the second innings. Tyler Benjamin drove in Brandt Hofer with a sacrifice fly in the first inning. Keith Gaynor hit an RBI double and Hofer had an RBI groundout.

Carroll closed the gap at 4-2 with a pair of runs in their half of the second. Adam Klocke had a sacrifice fly and designated hitter Nick Behm had a run scoring single.

Western Dubuque added another run in the third for a 5-2 lead. Nathan Ramler had a RBI single for the Bobcats. Carroll drew to within two at 5-3 with one run in the fifth. Ben Gossett reached on an error and scored on Matt

Fleshner's double that sailed over the right fielder's head.

Carroll ace Greg Schulz was called to the mound in the fifth inning and worked out of a jam with runners on first and second and one out. Schulz struck out two batters to end the frame and threw scoreless sixth and seventh innings to keep the Tigers close.

"We felt like we were still in the ballgame," Troutman said. "They were hitting the ball and we weren't getting any breaks for the first couple of innings. We weren't getting any help whatsoever and we were still in the game and felt like we could put together something because that's what we've been doing here recently, so we never gave up."

In the seventh, Carroll senior Chase Steinkamp beat out an infield hit to reach base with one away. Fleshner then hit a shot off Schmitt's foot. The ball fell in shortstop Brendan Dardis' hands to start a 1-6-4-3 game-ending double play.

In its first state appearance, Carroll battled hard before finishing its season with a school record 25 wins to just 10 losses. The Tigers bettered its school-record 24-9 season in 2003.

Schulz, one of eight seniors on the Tiger's roster, said it was a great season.

"We got some big wins, we beat Kuemper and we beat Harlan twice," he said, taking time to reflect on the season while over-

looking Principal Park. "We knew we could play and it's great that we ended it here. It's great to end it at the state tournament. For this senior group, for these eight guys, this is something special."

Troutman agreed.

"They've been a great bunch and they've done a lot for this program," said Troutman. "We'll never forget what these kids have done for our program. Nobody will ever be able to say they are the first group to do it again. These guys will always be the first to do it. We relied on them all year and they did it for us."

Troutman, now 148-127 overall, said the state appearance also did a lot for the Carroll program.

"Our program has been building here for the last couple of years," Troutman added. "And we've put together some good teams and this is the first time we've finally been able to make it down here - this will carry over a lot of excitement in our community for baseball."

Carroll says goodbye to Ben Gossett, Cem Canpolat, Adam Klocke, Marc Hempstead, Nick Behm, Chase Steinkamp, Greg Schulz and Matt Fleshner.

Western Dubuque lost 10-2 in the 3A championship game to Cedar Rapids Xavier. The Bobcats finished 29-13.

It was the second year in a row that a Carroll baseball team was hurt by the two

days of rest rule for pitchers. Rainouts forced Kuemper Catholic's state quarter-final game to be completed Wednesday from Monday last year, and ace Tom Heithoff pitched in that game before finishing Thursday's nine-inning semifinal win over Cherokee. The Iowa High School rules forced Heithoff to rest for two days, eliminating him from pitching in the final.

At the time Kuemper coach Jerry Spieler said he would always wonder what would have happened had Heithoff been able to pitch in the title game.

## Game Statistics

Carroll vs. W. Dubuque

	R	H	E		
W.Dubuque	13	10	00	05 7 2	
Carroll	02	00	10	03 7 2	
LOB — WD - 11, CHS - 7					
Doubles — WD - Hofer;					
Gaynor; CHS - Fleshner;					
Schulz					
Carroll RBIs — Fleshner,					
Klocke, Behm					
Carroll multiple hitters —					
Fleshner 2-4					
IP	H	BB	SO	R ER	
Tilson (WP)	6.0	6	4	5 3	2
Schmitt	1.0	1	0	0 0	0
Semprini (LP)	2.02	2	0	4	4
Gossett	0.1	0	1	0 1	1
Steinkamp	2.0	3	2	1 0	0
Schulz	.2.2	2	2	5 0	0