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Patience paid off for the Carroll baseball team Friday night.

The Tigers took advantage of 11 walked batters and worked back from a 3-0 deficit to win a Class 3A district opener 7-5 over Jefferson-Scranton.

Carroll (22-9) will face fifth-ranked Harlan (27-5) Monday at Carroll Stadium for the district championship. The Cyclones advanced with a 3-2 win over Denison-Schleswig Friday.

"We just wanted to get on (base) anyway

we could - get a hit, a walk, so we were taking some strikes," said Ben Gossett of Carroll's persistence at the plate.

Gossett, who bats number two and lead off batter Addison Patrick reached base four times. Patrick, who scored the Tiger's first two runs, drew three walks and was hit by a pitch in his fourth at bat. Gossett walked, reached on an error, singled and was also hit by a pitch.

"We needed a lot of baserunners, we knew we needed that," Patrick said. "We knew they were going to give it their best and we knew we were going to have to come out shooting."

But it was the Rams who found the target first, striking for three runs in the top of the first inning. The visitors, looking for their first win in three meetings with Carroll this season, took advantage of an error, two hit batters and a walk. Eric Swain sent a two-run single to left field for the lone hit in the inning.

Carroll gradually chipped away at the lead and tied the game at 4-4 in the fourth on Gossett's rbi single.

J-S would answer in the top of the fifth. John Hupp hit a double off starting pitcher Kyle Semprini, who was then relieved by Gossett. Josh Nelson hit a sacrifice fly to center as the Rams reclaimed the lead at 5-4.

That lead was short-lived when Marc Hempstead's rbi single

to center tied the game again. Carroll took the lead for good, using a walk, two hit batters and a pair of wild pitches for the final margin.

"It was a hard fought win, you take anything you can get this time of year," Carroll coach Dirk Troutman said. "I'm real proud of the way the kids battled in tough conditions. We got down early, but they never gave up, they never lost their focus - They were very patient, especially when we got down, that patience was big."

Carroll and Harlan have met twice this season. The Tigers won 8-2 in its season opener and then fell 6-4 to the Cyclones during the Kuemper invitational.

It was Harlan who kept Carroll out of the boys state basketball tournament this winter.

"I really want to beat them, especially after basketball," Gossett said. "We'll have to play our game and make the least amount of errors."

Game Statistics
 Carroll vs. Jefferson

	R	H	E	
Jefferson	3	0	0	1
Carroll	1	0	1	2
LOB — C:	10	J:	4	
Doubles — J:	Hupp			
Carroll RBIs —	Steinkamp, Fleshner, Hempstead			
Carroll multiple hitters —	None			

	IP	H	BB	SO	R	ER
Gossett (WP)	1.3	0	0	1		0
Fandel (LP)	1.1	1	2	1	3	1