

# Tigers come up short in title game

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Carroll had some big hits and twice worked out of bases loaded jams, but couldn't overcome a slow start and fell 5-4 to Denison-Schleswig in the championship game of its own baseball invitational Sunday night.

The Tigers gave up five runs on nine hits and two errors in the first four innings before roaring back to

within a run in the bottom of the fifth.

Addison Patrick hit a stand up triple and scored the Tigers first run on a groundout by Ben Gossett in the third inning. Matt Fleshner stroked a double to left field in the fourth before Greg Schulz drew a full-count base on balls and Marc Hempstead sent a two-out shot to left to push both runs across home plate. Chase Steinkamp reached base on a fielder's choice hit in the fifth and scored on a wild pitch to close the gap at 5-4.

The Tigers threatened with a pair of base runners in the sixth. Klocke drew a base on balls and Behm reached on a fielder's choice, but a pair of strikeouts ended Carroll's late rally. The top of the line-up went down in order in the seventh.

Jim Mink got the win for the Monarchs, hurling a three-hitter with four walks and two strikeouts in five innings. Brett Larson got the save.

Denison scored two runs in the first inning after Carroll turned a double play in the field. Chris Soseman, Mink and Colin Straight hit consecutive singles for the Monarchs. Denison added a run in the third on a single by Aaron Schurke and two errors in field. The visiting team plated two more runs in the fourth on a RBI single by Schurke and a bases loaded walk.

Sophomore Michael Dirkx stepped to the mound for Carroll with

one out and bases loaded in the fourth in relief of Adam Klocke, who took the loss, and got the Tigers out of the jam with a pair of strikeouts. Dirkx also fanned a pair of batters in the fifth. Kyle Christensen pitched in the sixth and seventh for Carroll and also worked out of a bases loaded situation, striking out Mitch Mengwasser for the final out.

"It was a good weekend and a good field of teams," Carroll coach Dirk Troutman said after the title game. "I'm happy with our performance. We had some kids step up and got some quality pitching. I'm real happy with the way we played."

The Tigers, now 10-4 overall, advanced to the title game with a 2-1 semifinal win over Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson. They defeated Storm Lake 5-1 in the opener.

Waukee won the third place game 10-7 over Council Bluffs-TJ, scoring eight runs in the top of the sixth inning to work back from a 6-2 deficit. Estherville Lincoln Central defeated Kuemper Catholic 8-4 in the fifth place game. Austin Schoepner went 2 for 3 with a RBI for the Knights, who scored three times in the bottom of the seventh.

Game Statistics  
Carroll vs. Denison-  
Schleswig  
Championship Game

	R	H	E
Denison	2	0	1
Carroll	0	0	1
	2	0	0
	5	1	0
	1	0	0
	2	4	3
	3	3	3

LOB — Carroll 4, Denison  
 9  
 Doubles — Fleshner  
 Carroll RBIs —  
 Hempstead  
 Carroll multiple hitters —  
 None

	IP	H	BB	SO	R	ER
Klocke.....	4	9	1	3	4	2
Mink .....	5	3	4	3	4	3

**Carroll 2, Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson 1**

Marc Hempstead and Matt Fleshner both drove in runs in Carroll's 2-1 win over Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson in the semi-final round Sunday afternoon.

Nick Behm and Hempstead both reached base in the third inning for the Tigers when hit by a pitch. Addison Patrick singled and Behm scored when Fleshner drew a base on balls. Kyle Semprini, Behm and Hempstead hit consecutive singles in the fourth inning for Carroll with Hempstead's hit driving in Semprini.

Ben Gossett scattered four hits and gave up one unearned run in six innings of work for the win. Gossett walked three batters and fanned four. Chase Steinkamp threw in relief.

**Carroll 5, Storm Lake 1**

Nick Behm and Adam Klocke had the big hits and Tyler Tuel got the win on the mound in Carroll's 5-1 win over Storm Lake.

Behm hit a one-out bases loaded single to center in the fourth inning. Klocke blasted a two-out triple over the centerfielder's head to drive in two runs in the fifth. Carroll's other run

scored on a single by Kyle Christensen.

Tuel, a left-handed sophomore, scattered just three hits - two in the third inning and one in the sixth. He did not give up a base on balls and struck out three.

The Tigers had a handful of multiple hitters. Behm and Klocke were both 2 for 3 at the plate with the two RBIs. Christensen and Matt Fleshner were 2 for 3 and Ben Gossett 2 for 4.

Storm Lake scored its lone run in the third inning on a squeeze bunt by Logan Masters that scored Travis Wendt, who reached base on a one-out single.

The Tornadoes threatened with a pair of base runners in the sixth inning on an error and a single, but were aided by two striking catches in center by Addison Patrick and a nice grab at second by Gossett.