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Another 20-win season for 'Dogs

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Tim McDonough
May 18, 2011

The Defiance High School baseball team reached 20 wins for the 13th straight season after rolling past Toledo Central Catholic 12-1 in five innings in the last home game of the season for the Bulldogs.

"It's a great accomplishment to get to 20 wins again and I'm proud of how our guys bounced back (from its sectional loss to Napoleon)," stated Defiance mentor Tom Held, who has led DHS to the 13 straight 20-win campaigns. "Our guys showed up ready to play. Just because we got knocked out of the tournament doesn't mean they don't love to play baseball. They proved that today."

Mike Ramirez helped ignite a 5-run second inning for Defiance (20-4, No. 5 in Division II) with a three-run blast to left. The Bulldogs put the game away in the third inning by scoring seven more runs to move in front 12-1 on the way the victory over the Fighting Irish (10-12).

"Mike Ramirez has really played great the last two or three weeks," Held said. "We were all kind of in shock when he hit the home run, not because he doesn't have power, but because he rarely pulls the ball. That blast gave us our first three runs and got us rolling. I'm very happy for him."

Kurt Belau and Jake Sanchez combined on a two-hitter for the Bulldogs, with Belau improving to 8-0 in his senior campaign. The righty gave up one run, one hit and one walk while striking out eight in four innings of work.

"Kurt has had a phenomenal senior season," Held said. "It was great to see him win the last home game of his career."

Anthony Kidston finished with a single and double for DHS, Austin Hancock had a pair of singles and Gabe Vittorio added a triple.

Despite being knocked out of the tournament, Defiance is back in action Thursday when it travels to Fairview.

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Records: Defiance 20-4, Toledo Central Catholic 10-12.

Winning pitcher: Kurt Belau (4 innings, 1 run, 1 hit, 8 strikeouts, 1 walk). Other: Jake Sanchez.

Losing pitcher: Jason Kelly (21/3 innings, 9 runs, 5 hits, 1 strikeout, 4 walks). Others: Sam Perry, Jordan Bedell.

Leading hitters: (Toledo Central Catholic, 2 hits) - Jason Kelly double. (Defiance, 8 hits) - Austin Hancock 2 singles; Anthony Kidston single, double; Gabe Vittorio double; Mike Ramirez home run, 3 RBI.

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