

Minneola baseball sweeps Skyline

Mark Shelton
Dodge City Globe

The Minneola Wildcats put together two impressive wins over the Skyline Thunderbirds. In the opening game, they hung on to a tight 6-5 victory, while in the second, they cruised to an 11-1 blowout.

In game one the Wildcats were in control for most of the first game, building a 6-0 lead going into the final inning. Minneola's strong defense and a dominating performance from starting pitcher Lathan McPhail, who struck out 13 batters and allowed just one hit over six and one-third innings, put them in the driver's seat.

Minneola got on the board in the second inning with a ground out from Breagan Shelor, followed by another RBI groundout from Ethan Bates in the third. The Wildcats were relentless on the base paths, stealing seven bases throughout the game, and were able to manufacture runs at crucial moments.

However, the Thunderbirds refused to go down without a fight. Skyline came alive in the top of the seventh, scoring five runs on four hits, including a two-RBI single from Clayton Freeman and another two-RBI single by Matthias Bair. The late rally fell just short, and Minneola held on to win 6-5.



Sheldon led the Wildcats with two RBIs, while Cash Lang went 2-for-3 with two stolen bases. Freeman and Bair both drove in two runs for Skyline, but the Thunderbirds' late-game surge wasn't enough to overcome Minneola's early dominance.

In the second game, Minneola was firing on all

cylinders. After Skyline took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first due to an error, the Wildcats responded quickly. Kade Haydock's walk in the first inning tied the game, and then Minneola seized control in the second inning. Ethan Bates singled in a run, giving the Wildcats a 2-1 lead.

From there, it was all Minneola. The Wildcats scored three more in the third inning and put the game out of reach in the fifth, when they added five more runs, including a two-RBI double by Haydock. Minneola finished with nine hits in the game, led by Haydock and Lang, who both had two hits each. Haydock

also drove in three runs, continuing his strong performance from the first game.

On the mound, Lang was stellar, throwing three and one-third innings of one-hit ball, striking out seven, and allowing only one unearned run. The Wildcats' pitching staff combined for 12 strikeouts and allowed just two hits in the entire game.

Skyline's lone bright spot came from Clayton Freeman, who recorded one of the team's two hits. However, the Thunderbirds struggled to string together offense and were unable to contain the Wildcats' explosive lineup.

Bucklin Red Aces sweep Satanta

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The Bucklin Red Aces baseball team put together a statement doubleheader on Monday, dismantling the Satanta Varsity Indians by scores of 15-0 and 17-2, with senior standout Jack Willems putting on a clinic at the plate in both contests.

Willems was nearly untouchable across the two games, going a combined 7-for-7 with two home runs, a double, and four singles.

His offensive spark in Game 1 helped fuel a 15-run outburst, while his continued hot streak in Game 2 solidified Bucklin's offensive dominance.

The Red Aces wasted no time taking control in Game 1, plating four runs in the first inning thanks to RBI doubles from Kolson Cook and Nick Feikert, followed by a run scoring on a wild pitch. Bucklin's bats stayed hot in the second as Willems and JT Prusa launched back-to-back home runs, Feikert added one of his own, and a Satanta

error allowed another run to cross the plate.

Willems finished the opener 4-for-4 with a solo shot, double, and two singles. Prusa added three hits, and Feikert and Jack Herd drove in three runs apiece. Herd also went deep in the fourth inning to cap Bucklin's scoring.

On the mound, Leighton Konrade tossed a gem — a four-inning no-hitter with seven strikeouts and just one walk, earning the win and preserving the shutout. The Red Aces played error-free

defense behind him, adding five stolen bases and six walks to their all-around dominant effort.

Game 2 was more of the same from Bucklin, and once again, it started with Willems. The senior launched a two-run homer in the first inning and followed with singles in the second and third to finish 3-for-3. He also added an RBI single in an eight-run third that saw Bucklin blow the game wide open.

Lucas Kirk was another big contributor in Game 2,



driving in four runs on a pair of doubles. Preston Yancey's two-run triple highlighted a third inning that also included RBIs from Feikert, Prusa, and Willems.

Willems took the mound to start Game 2 and struck out eight over 2.2 innings. Jack Herd earned the win in relief, throwing one-third of an inning without allowing a hit.

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