



Jase Dirksen



Garrett Struxness



Coach Nate Hebrink




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RTR for the first time in the playoffs. The two teams had played in the regular season in Tyler with MACCRAY coming away with a 3-0 victory on May 5.

The semifinal game was an extremely tightly contested game between two familiar teams. The Knights were the first to get on the scoreboard with one run in the bottom of the fourth.

MACCRAY came back to tie the game 1-1 with a run in the top of the sixth.

With the game locked at 1-1 after seven, they needed extra innings to find a winner. MACCRAY scored a run in the top of the eighth to go up 2-1, but RTR answered with a run of their own in the bottom of the inning and the game continued.

Finally in the top of the 10th, MACCRAY was able to break open the game. They scored three runs to make it 5-2 and they shut down the Knights in the bottom of the inning to secure the three-run win and MACCRAY advanced to the Section 3A finals.

The Knights went into the consolation bracket and beat Murray County Central 1-0 to make it to the Section 3A finals for a rematch with MACCRAY in Milroy on June 9.

Since RTR had already lost, they had to beat MACCRAY twice, while the Wolverines needed only one win to advance to State.

Things looked promising for the Wolverines as they scored three runs in the bottom of the first to take a 3-0 advantage. The Knights got a run back in the top of the third and then in the fifth they scored three runs to take a 4-3 advantage.

The deficit remained one until the final frame when RTR added three runs in the top of the seventh to make it 7-3. MACCRAY could not get anything going in their final chance and with no runs, they lost by four runs.

This set up a winner-take-all game for the Section 3A title and a trip to the Class A Minnesota State Tournament right after the first game of the finals. The two teams seemed to start the game with some nerves, especially at the plate. They went through four innings with neither team able to get on the scoreboard.

MACCRAY was finally able to break the tie in the top of the fifth inning with two runs to make it 2-0.

The score remained the same with RTR at the plate in the bottom of the final inning. With the bases loaded, pitcher Brooks Asche walked in a run and the lead was cut to 2-1 and the bases remained loaded with one out. Asche recorded a strikeout for the second out and the final out came from a soft line drive to Joe Heidecker at first to end the game.

All those wearing MACCRAY blue and green had their hearts beating out of their chests in the final inning, but that made it all the more exciting for the team and fans when they were finally able to secure the win.



The MACCRAY baseball team was able to get by Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 2-1 to advance to the Class A State Baseball Tournament on June 9 in Milroy. Back row from left, coach Tyler Wrede, Bryson Kimpling, Grayson Ahrenholz, Ethan Strommer, Xavier Noble, Garrett Struxness, Joe Heidecker, Emery Aker, Keegan Rand, Jase Dirksen and coach Nate Hebrink; and front row, Caiden Harms, Talen Niemeyer, Angel Mendoza, Isaac Strommer, Dreyer Homan, Brooks Asche, Gavin Husman, Wyatt Swenson and Tobyn Dalle.



Gavin Husman makes a catch with two hands in the Section 3A finals in Milroy on June 9.



Joe Heidecker



Brooks Asche



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