

# one Bad Inning

## Waukee rallies in the sixth during the quarters at state

The beating rays of the sun hit the players' faces, as they walked onto the field. The foul lines had been freshly painted. Hundreds of fans clapped and cheered. "The greatest thrill at state was definitely playing in Principal Park with my team," graduate Nolan Monthei said. "It's always a blast playing on that nice of a field."

The team played against Waukee in the 4A quarterfinals at Principal Park. Graduate Jared Erickson allowed only two hits through the first five innings, and the team led 2-0 until the sixth when their opponent got a two-run homer. "After the home run, our whole team stayed extremely positive, but they just had a rally going and we couldn't get them out," senior Jack Dreyer said. "We fought until the last out but couldn't get it done."

Waukee scored the third run of the rally on a single, a wild pitch and a double. In the seventh, the team had a chance to tie the game, but senior Alex MacGregor was thrown out at home.

"The most challenging thing at state was getting the team ready to play in the tournament," Monthei said. They practiced for several hours every week, to prepare for state.

"The team put more work in before the first game then they've ever done before," head coach Michael Barta said. The boys went from one game each week to multiple games a day which took a toll on players. The increase in games brought on injuries. Dreyer's shoulder forced him to not participate. The stress of state put the team on edge especially because their number one pitcher was not able to play the rest of the season.

The boys placed seventh overall. "Unfortunately, we couldn't get the win but just making it to state was a huge accomplishment," Dreyer said.

They just had one bad inning "We knew we were capable of winning the game," Monthei said. "They just had one good hit to get them back into it, and that's just baseball."

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### top five batting averages

Peyton Williams	.365
Nolan Monthei	.358
Derek Hackman	.344
Drew Dotseth	.340
Kaj Robinson	.304



1. Graduate Jackson Clausen slides into second base at the first game against Hoover. Clausen earned third team all-state honors with a 6-0 record and 1.51 ERA. Graduate Nolan Monthei also earned third team all-state honors. (Photo by Kati Anderson)  
2. During the Roosevelt JV game, graduate Tyler Cardwell slides into third. Head coach Michael Barta coached the JV game because all of the other coaches were at different game. (Photo by Jordan DeRoos)  
3. Looking to first base, graduate Connor Stanton checks to make sure no one is going to steal second. Stanton pitched

a total of 24 innings for the season. (Photo by Jordan DeRoos)  
4. After an error during the Norwalk game, sophomore Drew Beazley beats the throw to first. Beazley, the team's shortstop, started every varsity game. (Photo by Jordan DeRoos)  
5. Freshman Andrew Nord slides into second base during a game against Lincoln. "I felt like a ninja when I dodged the tag," Nord said. However, the umpire felt he did not dodge the tag, and called him out. Coach Michael Barta argued the call. (Photo by Jordan DeRoos)  
6. Freshman Jacob Tobey makes his

first varsity appearance, one of the few freshman to play varsity. Tobey's first game was North Polk where he pitched on inning and then at the Marshalltown game where he pitched three innings. (Photo by Jordan DeRoos)  
7. After being called safe at home, graduate Drew Dotseth checks to see if graduate Kaj Robinson made it safely to second during the doubleheader against Ankeny Centennial. During the season he tallied 36 hits. (Photo by Jordan DeRoos)  
8. With the temperatures into the 90s, junior Derek Hackman overheats and lays down on the ground

during the first game of two against Dowling Catholic. The all-state catcher did not return to either of the two games and the team lost both. (Photo by Jordan DeRoos)  
9. Senior Jack Burger and teammates celebrate after graduate Kaj Robinson batted in the game-winning run against Ankeny Centennial. Robinson batted .304 average for the season. (Photo by Jordan DeRoos)