

Juniors wrap up Area 6 championship



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COLUMBUS - The First State Bank Juniors completed their domination of the Area 6 Baseball Tournament by defeating the Columbus Blues 14-1 Wednesday night in the championship game at Pawnee Park.

First State went undefeated in four games and advances to the Class A state tournament in Hastings. First State will face Millard South, the winner of the Area 4 tournament, in a first-round game at Duncan Field.

Columbus jumped to a 1-0 lead with the help of a hit batsman and two singles. Fremont starter Jacob Pribnow then got out of the jam with two strikeouts.

First State tied it in the bottom of the first. Jake Weinrich, who had singled, eventually scored on an error.

After Pribnow retired three straight Columbus batters in the top of the second, FSB took control in the bottom of the inning with seven runs.

Mitchell Hahn singled and Elliott Gloeb doubled to start the inning. Hahn then scored on a wild pitch and Gloeb scored on a RBI groundout by Matt Shrader.

Kenny Bristol was then hit by a pitch and stole second. With two outs, Trevor Wiegert delivered a RBI single to make it 4-1.

Dylan Drews then hit a single and DJ Drews was hit with a pitch to load the bases. On a 2-2 count, Blake Smolinski cleared the bases with a double to the leftfield fence and then scored on a Hahn double to give Fremont an 8-1 lead after two innings.

In the bottom of the third, Weinrich reached on an error, Wiegert was hit by a pitch and DJ Drews walked to load the bases. Smolinski followed with a two-run single to increase the lead to 10-1.

First State padded its lead in the fourth. Gloeb reached on an error and Shrader doubled. An error brought in Gloeb and Alex Poulas, running for Shrader, eventually scored on a wild pitch.

Bryce Weier entered the game for Fremont and got a single followed by a Dylan Drews walk and a Smolinski RBI single to make it 14-1.

Columbus went down quietly in the top of the fifth to end the game due to the 10-run rule.

Pribnow scattered four hits to pick up the complete game victory. He struck out six and walked one.

The Juniors enter the state tournament on a five-game winning streak. It is Fremont's first Juniors district title since 1994.

