2012 Moeller Varsity Baseball – Game Summaries

MOELLER 4 Ross 2

Pre-Season ranked #1 in the Cincinnati Enquirer Coaches Poll, the Moeller Crusaders defeated the Ross Rams 4-2 on a sunny, crisp Opening Day at Schuler Park. Senior Phillip Diehl started the game and pitched two innings, allowing two hits, one earned run while striking out six of the eight batters he faced. Senior Zach Williams (1-0) picked up the win, his first of the season, by pitching the last five innings giving up two hits, one earned run and striking out four. The Rams struck first scoring in the top half of the first, but Big Moe answered scoring two in the home half of the first. The big knock, a two out RBI double by Junior Cam Whitehead. The Crusaders added two more in the second. With two outs, senior Jackson Phipps coaxed a walk. Phipps stole second. Senior Ty Amann walked. Senior Ryan LeFevers promptly doubled both Phipps and Amann in to give Big Moe a three run lead, which is all that Williams needed. Williams did pitch out of a jam in the 6th when the Crusader defense struggled as Ross loaded the bases and eventually scored one run all without hitting the ball out of the infield. Big Moe begins the season 1-0 and hosts Glen Este tomorrow.

MOELLER 13 Glen Este 3

Big Moe's bats came alive in game two of the season as the Crusaders beat the Glen Este Trojans 13-3 at Schuler Park. Senior Ryan LeFevers (1-0) finally made his first start in his varsity career and earned his first varsity win as he pitched five innings, giving up seven hits, three earned runs while striking out three. Junior TJ Marklay pitched a scoreless sixth to finish the game as his little brother Tanner was pitching the last inning of the Freshman team's win. After giving up a run to the Trojans in the first - Big Moe sent thirteen batters to the plate scoring seven runs on four hits. Senior Ty Amann led the twelve hit attack on the day going 2-3 with a triple and three RBI's. Senior Nick Edwards was 2-2 with two runs scored. Senior Brad Macciocchi and junior Jimmy Rodenberg both collected a double on the day and Senior Jeff Ludwig ended the contest in dramatic fashion by hitting a two-run home run in the bottom of the sixth to give Moe a ten run lead. The Crusaders run their record to 2-0 and begin league play with the Elder Panthers tomorrow at 4PM at the University of Cincinnati as part of the Cincinnati Reds Futures High School Showcase.

Elder 12 MOELLER 2

The Elder Panthers took advantage of some shaky Moeller defense and defeated the Crusaders 12-2 at University of Cincinnati's Marge Schott Stadium. The opener of GCL league play was part of the Cincinnati Reds Future Stars Showcase. With one run already in for Moe in the top of the first and bases loaded with one out - the Crusaders were looking to give the knockout blow but Elder's starting pitcher settled down to retire the next two Crusader batters to end the rally. Elder answered with two runs in the home half of the first and held Moe at bay the rest of the game. Senior Brian Burkhart (0-1) suffered his first loss of the young season. Big Moe looks to get back on track with a league game Friday at St. X.

MOELLER 9 St. Xavier 5

Big Moe Varsity won in dramatic fashion at St. X today on Friday. Down 5-1 going to the top of the seventh, the Crusaders rallied. Junior Cameron Whitehead led off the seventh with a walk (walks will haunt!). A fielder's choice force out at second put the Bombers two outs away from a GCL win. Junior Spencer Iacovone was HBP - runners at first and second. St. X makes a pitching change. Big Moe makes a change of their own sending senior Lincoln Reed into the game to pinch hit and he promptly hit the first pitch he saw - a 3-Run Home Run that made the score 5-4 St. X. The Crusaders were not done yet. Senior Ty Amann started a new rally by singling to left. Senior Ryan LeFevers walked and sophomore Zack Shannon singled home Amann to tie the score. After another walk to load the bases, senior Jordan Simpson capped the inning off win Grand style - a Grand Slam home run to give Big Moe a 9-5 lead. Senior John Tanner started the game for Moe pitching five innings, giving up three hits and four runs-three earned - while striking out four. Senior John Hakemoller (1-0) pitched the sixth inning and picked up his first win of the season. Senior Phillip Diehl pitched a scoreless seventh inning. Other hitting leaders on the day; Amann was 3-4 with a double and two runs scored. Senior Brad Macciocchi was 2-3 with a double. Senior Nick Edwards added a triple. Moe stands at 3-1 overall and 1-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 10 De LaSalle, IL 2

Big Moe took to the road to play in the Noblesville, IN Classic. In the first game, Moe played against the Meteors of De LaSalle, a ranked team out of the south side of Chicago. Senior Zach Williams (2-0) made his first official start of the year and he pitched a gem. Williams went six innings, scattering six hits, giving up two earned runs while striking out nine! Junior Mason Eckley pitched the seventh and struck out all three batters he faced. Hitting leaders on the day were senior Jordan Simpson who was 2-4 with a double. Senior Nick Edwards was 2-4 and scored three times. Seniors Stephen Hackman and Jackson Phipps each added a double and sophomore Zack Shannon was 2-5 with a HR, two runs scored and two RBI's. Big Moe runs its record to 4-1; 1-1 in the GCL.

Homestead, IN 11 MOELLER 4

In the nightcap and championship game of the Miller Classic, Big Moe ran into Fort Wayne powerhouse Homestead High School and their hot bats losing 11-4. Homestead pounded out fourteen hits against Moeller pitching but only seven of their eleven runs were earned as Moe's defense proved to be their Achilles heel once again. Senior Ryan LeFevers (1-1) made his second start of the year and suffered his first loss. The Moeller bats were as cold as the evening air as they only had four hits in the game and junior Cam Whitehead had two of them. Senior Ty Amann had a triple and Sophomore Riley Mahan added a double for the Crusaders. Big Moe ends the week at 4-2; 1-1 in GCL play.

MOELLER 10, LaSalle 1

Big Moe continued their winning ways in the GCL downing the LaSalle Lancers on a sun-drenched day at Schuler Park. Senior Brian Burkhart (1-1) evened up his record on the year with a dominant performance on the mound. After giving up a leadoff double to his cousin and an unearned run to the Lancers in the first, Burkhart only gave up one more hit the rest of the game. Officially Burkhart pitched seven innings, giving up two hits, one unearned run while striking out eight Lancer hitters. Trailing the Lancers going to the home half of the first, the Crusaders answered with three runs. Big Moe added six more runs in the third and one more for good measure in the fifth. Senior Ryan LeFevers led the offense going 2-4 with a run scored, an RBI and two stolen bases on the day. Junior Cameron Whitehead had a double and two RBI's. Moe run its record to 5-2; 2-1 in GCL play.

MOELLER 6, Carroll 2

The Moeller Crusaders added another GCL win vs. the Dayton Carroll Patriots, 6-2. With the rain coming down to open the top of the first, it appeared the game could be a wash out. Senior Zach Williams (3-0) collected his third win of the season as he pitched like it was sunny and 80 degrees out. Williams threw five innings, gave up two hits and two unearned runs. It was Double Trouble for the Crusaders as they hit five doubles on the day. Senior Lincoln Reed had two, senior Brad Macciocchi had one and sophomores Zack Shannon and Riley Mahan each collected one apiece as well. Shannon and Mahan were both 2-3 on the day with Mahan collecting three RBI's. Reed was 2-2, scored three times and knocked in two. Big Moe runs its record to 6-2; 3-1 in the GCL. The Crusaders play a DH on Saturday vs. Dayton Fairmont and Strongsville, who's #1 in the State of Ohio! First pitch against Fairmont at 11 AM with the game against Strongsville to immediately follow.

Fairmont 11, **MOELLER 10** 9 innings

On a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon, the Moeller Crusaders entertained the Kettering Fairmont Firebirds and the Strongsville Mustangs. It proved to be a wild, crazy day of baseball as the first game went extras and the second game featured a walk-off win vs. the #1 team in the state of Ohio according to the Prep Baseball Report. To game #1 where senior Phillip Diehl made the start—Diehl didn't have his best stuff on the day going four innings, giving up eight hits, six runs (five earned). Junior Mason Eckley relieved Diehl and didn't do much better as Eckley lived high in the zone and paid for it giving up five hits, four runs-all earned. Senior John Hakemoller (1-1) pitched the final two frames and suffered his first loss of the season. After a scoreless first the Firebirds scored five runs in the second. Moe answered with two in the home half of the third. Fairmont added a run in the fourth but Moe scored four of their own in the fourth to tie the game at six. Fairmont answered scoring four more runs in the top of the fifth while Moe scored one in the home half of the fifth and three more in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game once again. The Firebirds added the final run in the top of the ninth and that was that. The Crusaders had plenty of chances to end the game but credit the Firebird pitchers who threw just enough to hang on. All in all both teams combined for twenty-one runs on twenty-seven hits. Senior Ty Amann led the Crusader offense going 2-4 with two triples. Sophomore Zach Shannon also went 2-4 with a triple. Senior Jordan Simpson was 2-5 with two RBI's. Senior Brad Macciocchi was 2-4. Senior Ryan LeFevers came off the bench to go 2-3. Senior Jackson Phipps, junior Spencer Iacovone and sophomore Riley Mahan all had a double on the day. Moe's record stands at 6-3; 3-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 6, Strongsville 5

In the nightcap, senior lefty John Tanner took the mound to pitch against Prep Baseball Report's #1 team in the state of Ohio, the Strongsville Mustangs. Tanner pitched well but was the victim of some mental and physical errors by the Crusader defense. Tanner's line; five innings pitched, scattering seven hits and giving up five runs (only two earned runs). Senior Brian Burkhart (2-1) took the mound after Tanner and picked up the win as he held the Mustangs scoreless in his two innings of work. Fast forward to the home half of the seventh. With Big Moe down 5-2 and not showing any life at the plate to that point, sophomore Riley Mahan led off reaching first on a strikeout, wild pitch. Senior Ty Amann doubled putting runners at second and third and nobody out. Senior Ryan LeFevers grounded out to the right side scoring Mahan and advancing Amann to third. Junior Brian Butz then singled scoring Amann to make it a 5-4 game. After a fly out, sophomore Zach Shannon stepped up to the plate and with two strikes on him, hit a triple to the right center gap that scored Butz to tie the game. Junior Cameron Whitehead was up next and hit a line drive that cleared the center fielder's head to score Shannon and give Big Moe a 6-5 win! Amann continued to swing a hot bat going 2-3 with that aforementioned double. LeFevers was 2-4 with two RBI's and junior Spencer Iacovone was 2-3. The win improved the Crusader's record to 7-3; 3-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 5 McNicholas 1

In a rare day-night doubleheader, the Moeller Crusaders first made the trip to McNicholas High School, downing the Rockets 5-1. Senior Ryan LeFevers (2-1) got back on the winning track pitching four innings, giving up two hits and one run. Sophomore Zach Shannon made his varsity debut on the mound pitching the last three innings to earn the save. Shannon did not allow a hit and struck out four. The Crusaders pounded out eleven hits on the day and were led by junior Spencer Iacovone who went 3-3 with a HR, a double, a single and a walkJunior Justin Wampler was 2-4 and junior Brian Butz was 2-2 with a double. Seniors Ty Amann and Nick Edwards also added doubles on the day. Big Moe runs its record to 8-3 and remains 3-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 11 Grosse Pointe South 1

In the nightcap, Big Moe continued their winning ways by beating up on Michigan powerhouse Grosse Pointe South Blue Devils 11-1. Senior Zach Williams (4-0) continues to shine on the mound pitching his fourth win in four outings. Williams pitched six innings, giving up four hits, one run while striking out nine. The Crusaders scored in every inning but the fifth while pounding out ten hits against the Blue Devil pitching. Junior Spencer Iacovone continued to swing the hot bat going 2-2 with two doubles and three RBI's. Sophomore Zach Shannon was 2-4 with a HR and a double. Senior Jordan Simpson was 2-2 and juniors Cameron Whitehead and Nick Meece added a double a piece to the Moeller offense. Moe improves to 9-3; 3-1 in the GCL. Big Moe takes to the road as they head to Atlanta, GA for its next three games.

MOELLER 13, Loganville (GA) 2

This year's spring trip took the Moeller Crusaders to Atlanta, Georgia. After a day spent in Athens, GA on the University of Georgia's campus, Big Moe headed to Loganville High School to take on the Red Devils in front of a packed house. Senior Brian Burkhart (3-1) was dominant on the mound pitching a complete game going five innings, scattering four hits, two unearned runs while striking out eight. Going to the third inning tied at two with a runner on, two outs and two strikes, senior Brad Macciocchi came up big connecting on a home run to give Moe a 4-2 lead. The Crusaders ended up scoring seven more runs in the third inning to pretty much shut the door on the Red Devils. Macciocchi finished the day going 3-4 with four RBI's. Seniors Ryan LeFevers and Jordan Simpson were both 2-3. Senior Nick Edwards was 2-4, scoring twice and knocking in two. Senior Ty Amann and Sophomore Riley Mahan both had a double on the night. Moe improved to 10-3; 3-1 in the GCL.

Pope (GA) 5, **MOELLER 4**

On Thursday, the Big Moe caravan travelled to national powerhouse Pope High School. The story on this night was the Crusaders inability to come up with the big knock as they stranded eleven. Ten Crusaders were walked, two were hit by pitches, and Moe swiped nine bags on the night and they still couldn't cash in. Senior John Tanner continues to confuse hitters while running into tough luck. Tanner pitched five innings, gave up five hits, three runs-two earned while striking out ten Greyhound batters. Senior John Hakemoller relieved Tanner and took the loss on the night. Moe's record stands at 10-4; 3-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 6. Sprayberry (GA) 0

After an off day on Friday which saw the Crusaders practice at Georgia Tech University as well as take in the Atlanta Braves home opener, Big Moe headed to Sprayberry High School on Saturday to complete its southern swing. Once again, Moeller pitching dominated the headlines. Senior Phillip Diehl (1-0) pitched a complete game shutout going seven innings, giving up four hits, no runs while striking out eight Yellow Jacket hitters. Senior Ryan LeFevers was 2-4 with two runs scored while knocking in three. Senior Stephen Hackman was 2-4. Junior Nick Meece added a triple and sophomore Riley Mahan collected three RBI's on the day. Big Moe heads back north with an 11-4 record with GCL play starting up again this week.

MOELLER 7, Alter 2

Fresh off their spring trip to Atlanta, the Moeller Crusaders got back into GCL league play on the road once again travelling north to take on the Alter Knights. Strong starting pitching continued as senior Zach Williams (5-0) earned his fifth victory pitching six shutout innings while yielding only two hits while striking out twelve! Williams pitched his way out of a dicey situation in the Alter sixth inning. With a 6-0 lead Williams struck out the leadoff batter. The next batter singled. Then a Crusader error put runners on first and second. Williams then walked the cleanup hitter to load the bases. With bases loaded Williams buckled down and struck out the next two Knight hitters to shut down the rally. The Crusader offense continued to garner extra base hits. Senior Ty Amann was 3-4 with a 3B. Junior Spencer Iacovone was 2-4 with a double, home run and two RBI's. Senior Ryan LeFevers was 2-4 with a home run, two runs scored and two RBI's. Senior Nick Edwards also homered on the day and drove in two. Senior Jordan Simpson and sophomore Riley Mahan each added a double in the game. Big Moe runs its record to 12-4 and 4-1 in the GCL. League play continues tomorrow as the Crusaders take to the road once again to take on CJ.

MOELLER 5, Chaminade-Julienne 1

The road warriors continued their winning ways as Big Moe made the trek for the second straight day to the Dayton area to take on the CJ Eagles in a GCL league game. Senior John Tanner (1-0) finally got his first win of the season as he continued to pitch great baseball going six innings, giving up three hits, one unearned run while striking out seven. Sophomore Zack Shannon came in to pitch the seventh striking out two of the three batters he faced. Junior Spencer Iacovone continues to swing the hot bat going 2-3 with two doubles on the day. Iacovone is now hitting an even .500, with a .906 slugging average and a .652 on-base percentage. Senior Jordan Simpson delivered the big hit of the game as Moe was clinging to a 2-1 lead in the fifth inning when he singled sharply up the middle scoring two and giving Tanner a little breathing room. Seniors Nick Edwards and Ryan LeFevers were both 2-4 on the day while senior Brad Macciocchi and the aforementioned Shannon each collected a double on the day. The Crusaders now stand at 13-4 and 5-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 3, Badin 1

It's been nine days since Big Moe played a home game at the friendly confines of Schuler Park. The Crusaders finally got back in front of their home crowd and defeated the Badin Rams 3-1. Once again it was starting pitching. Senior Brian Burkhart (4-1) continues to confuse hitters at the plate and gets the big outs when he needs to. Burkhart tossed a complete game going seven innings, giving up seven hits, one unearned run while striking out seven. The Crusader offense put pressure on the Ram defense in the second inning and took advantage of a Badin miscue that led to Moe's three runs. Sophomore Zach Shannon led off the second and was hit by a pitch. Senior Brad Macciocchi then walked. Senior Jordan Simpson was called on to bunt Shannon and Macciocchi into scoring position. With a hard bunt towards first base and the first baseman playing in, the first baseman fielded the ball, had a play at third but threw it away to allow Shannon to score. Macciocchi moved to third on the error and Simpson moved to second. After two ground outs

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with the infield in and with runners still on second and third, sophomore Riley Mahan sliced one inside the left field line for a double that scored two. Three runs in and that was all Big Moe needed. The Rams made it exciting in the seventh. After retiring the leadoff hitter in the seventh, the next batter tapped a slow roller back to Burkhart which he threw to right field and the runner advanced to third on the throwing error. The next Ram hitter singled to score a Badin run - Moe 3 Badin 1 with one out and a runner on first. The next hitter, probably Badin's best hitter, TJ Nichting who had two hits already - one a triple, hit a shot between second baseman Ty Amann and first baseman Macciocchi. Amann laid out, fielded the ball and threw out Nichting from his knees in a bang-bang play at first. Burkhart then coaxed the next hitter to fly out to right and the game was over. The Crusaders now stand at 14-4; 5-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 1, FENWICK 0

On a day that would rival any windy game at Wrigley Field in the windy city of Chicago, senior Phillip Diehl was the story. Diehl (2-0) pitched a complete game shutout throwing seven innings of four hit baseball while striking out fourteen Falcon hitters and only walking one. A tip of the cap goes to Fenwick starting pitcher Tyler Goubeaux, who kept Big Moe's hitters off balance all day. Goubeaux's pitching was like a mix of Boston Red Sox pitchers Tim Wakefield and his knuckleball and Bill "Spaceman" Lee's eephus pitch! The only run the Crusader could muster came in the fourth inning. Sophomore Zach Shannon led off the inning banging a triple in the right center gap. After a strikeout, senior Jordan Simpson hit a ball just far enough into right field to plate Shannon with a sacrifice fly. That run proved to be the winner and was all Diehl needed. As the city's new #1 team as of this morning's most recent coaches poll, Big Moe runs its record to 15-4 and 6-1 in the GCL. Next up for Moe is GCL rival Elder on Wednesday at Schuler Park in the 2nd Annual Pink Game to Strike Out Cancer. Please note the start time is 6PM.

MOELLER 10, LaSalle 4

Big Moe kept its GCL title hopes alive with a 10-4 win at LaSalle on Monday. Senior John Tanner (2-0) pitched a complete game throwing seven innings, allowing six hits, four runs/one earned while striking out six Lancer batters. The Crusaders came out smoking scoring six runs in the top of the first inning while batting around. It seemed to take the life out of LaSalle and Moe put the game on cruise control from there. That cruise control almost got the Crusaders in trouble as they allowed LaSalle to score four runs in the home half of the fourth thanks in large part to three Moeller errors in the field. Tanner kept getting the Lancers to hit ground balls and Moe finally got the outs they needed. Senior Ty Amann led the Crusaders at the plate going 3-3 with a double. Junior Cameron Whitehead was 2-4 with a double and two runs scored. Sophomore Riley Mahan was also 2-4 and he knocked in two. Senior Jordan Simpson and sophomore Zack Shannon each added a double to Big Moe's offense. The Crusaders, currently ranked #1 in the City Poll and #3 in the State of Ohio Poll now stand at 16-4 and 7-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 7, Elder 6

The 2nd Annual Pink Game to Strike Out Cancer was played over two days. This game begin on a rainy Wednesday, April 25th night in front of a huge crowd at Schuler Park and ended a week and a day later on a sun drenched, warm day also in front of a large crowd at Schuler Park. The weather and a rather tight strike zone affected senior pitchers John Tanner and Zach Williams. Tanner got the start and pitched well under the circumstances. He pitched four innings, giving up four hits, one unearned run while striking out four. Tanner who has pitched great all year ran into another tough luck performance as he got another no decision. When he left the game Big Moe was leading 6-1 as the Crusader offense jumped all over Elder starter Mitch Asman - the same Elder starter that dominated the Moeller hitters the first time these two teams squared off at UC. After Elder scored one in the top of the first, Big Moe answered with two runs of their own. Leadoff hitter Ryan LeFevers singled, stole second, advanced to third when senior Ty Amann moved him over and scored on an RBI ground out by junior Spencer Iacovone. Sophomore Zack Shannon then hit a bomb to make it 2-1

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Moe. The Crusaders added a run in the second and three in the third when LeFevers led off with a triple and Amann singled him home. Iacovone then hit a laser over the left field wall to score both he and Amann. The Panthers scored one in the fifth as the weather was deteriorating. A walk, two wild pitches and a ground out plated that Panther run. Elder then rallied for four in the sixth inning as walks, errors and timely hits knotted the game at six. As the game moved to the seventh inning, the rain was unrelenting and the playing conditions being poor since the fourth inning, the umps decided to suspend the game. Fast forward to the following Thursday. Senior Brian Burkhart was inserted into the game where he promptly retired the Panther hitters' one, two, three. Elder countered by re-entering Asman into the game. Iacovone led off the home half of the seventh with a double down the right field line. Shannon was intentionally walked. After two unsuccessful bunt attempts by senior Jordan Simpson, Simpson hung in there and singled to load the bases. Senior Brad Macciocchi then singled sharply to right field to end the game and ensure Big Moe of a share of the GCL title. Burkhart (5-1) picks up the win for his seven pitch performance. LeFevers finished the day going 2-3 with a triple and two runs scored. Iacovone was 2-4 with a double, home run and three RBI's. Simpson was 2-4 with a double. Senior Nick Edwards added a double. Brad Macciocchi was 2-4 with the game winning RBI. Moe runs its record to 17-4; 8-1 in the GCL and will take on St. X to see if they can win the GCL championship outright...stay tuned!

MOELLER 7, St. Xavier 5 **GCL CHAMPIONS**

As the wet weather dictated the schedule, Coach Held decided to just knock out both the Elder completion and the make-up St. X game all in one shot. After dispatching the Elder Panthers earlier and guaranteeing themselves a share of the GCL title, the St. X Bombers took to the visitors' dugout at Schuler Park - game on! Senior Brian Burkhart - fresh off a seven pitch performance and a win against Elder just minutes earlier - took to the mound in attempting to pick up his second win of the day. A tall order for Burkhart to knock off both Elder and X in the same day? Not a problem for Burkhart (6-1) as he collected his sixth win of the year. Burkhart pitched five innings, scattering seven hits, giving up three runs-one earned while striking out six. Senior Phillip Diehl relieved Burkhart, pitching one and two thirds then turning it over to senior John Hakemoller to get the final out of the game, earning his first save of the season - and it was a big one as he faced the tying run at the plate - striking him out looking. After a scoreless first, X put two runs on the board in the top of the second. Moe answered right back this time scoring three in the home half of the second. The Crusaders added two more runs in the fourth to take a 5-2 lead. X scored one in the fifth to close it to a 5-3 game. Big Moe added two big runs in the bottom of the sixth to give them just enough breathing room to hang on to the win. Senior Brad Macciocchi was 2-3 at the plate with two doubles, two runs scored and an RBI. Senior Nick Edwards was 2-2 scoring three times and collecting an RBI as well. Sophomore Riley Mahan was 1-3 and knocked in two while senior Jordan Simpson scored twice on the day. Moe is 18-4 and 9-1 in the GCL and win the GCL Championship outright this year. Congratulations to the Moeller Baseball Program as they once again are Triple Crown winners! All three levels claimed a GCL title!

Centerville 6, MOELLER 3

After claiming its 10th City Poll Championship earlier in the day, Big Moe took to the road to take on the #2 ranked team in the state of Ohio, the Centerville Elks. Senior Phillip Diehl (2-1) started on the bump for the Crusaders. Diehl took the loss in going five innings pitched, giving up seven hits, five runs-four earned while striking out four. The Elks offense did not hit Diehl hard, with one exception; however, they took advantage of a walk, a couple Moeller errors and some timely singles to get the lead and keep it. Tip of the cap to the Elk pitchers as Moe's offense couldn't get that big hit when they needed it and a few base running blunders didn't help the cause as well. The Crusaders stand at 18-5 entering the state tournament and will take on the winner of the Western Hills-Northwest game. Tourney game #1 will be home at Schuler Park on Thursday, May 10 with the first pitch set for 5PM.

MOELLER 11, Northwest 1 Sectional Semi-Finals

The Moeller Crusaders opened tournament play as the overall #2 see in their region and posted an 11-1 win over the Northwest Knights. Senior Brian Burkhart (7-1) threw a six inning complete game allowing three hits, one unearned run and struck out four. The theme of the Moeller offense all year has been extra base hits and on this day it was no different. Senior Jordan Simpson had a double. Junior Spencer Iacovone had a double and sophomore Zack Shannon collected two doubles. Seniors Ty Amann, Nick Edwards along with Simpson all had triples. Moe runs its record to 19-5 and will take on Lakota West in the Sectional Finals.

MOELLER 10, Vandalia Butler 3

With games remaining on their schedule, Big Moe travelled to Vandalia to take on Butler in a regular season game as a tune up for the Sectional Finals. Seniors John Tanner (3-0), Zach Williams and John Hakemoller all got in good work on the mound. Tanner struck out eight in his four innings of work. On the day, the senior trio struck out twelve Aviator batters. Clinging to a 3-2 lead going into the sixth, Big Moe's offense came alive to score four and added another three runs in the seventh for good measure. As the Moe pitchers had twelve strikeouts, the Crusader hitters collected twelve hits on the day. Senior Brad Macciocchi led the way going 3-3 with a double, two runs scored, and two RBI's. Seniors Ryan LeFevers and Nick Edwards were both 2-3. Senior Jordan Simpson was 1-3 with a triple, scored twice and knocked in two. Sophomore Riley Mahan had a double and three RBI's. Senior Ty Amann and sophomore Zack Shannon each had a double on the day. Big Moe runs its record to 20-5. It is Moeller's 27th twenty win season in its history. Moe plays Lakota West next in the Sectional Finals.

MOELLER 11, Lakota West 2 Sectional Championship

Big Moe won its 22nd Sectional Championship with a convincing 11-2 win over the Lakota West Firebirds Thursday at Milford High School. Senior Brian Burkhart (8-1) pitched a complete game scattering seven hits, giving up two runs-one earned while striking out six. The Crusaders bats were quiet through three innings and Big Moe found themselves down 2-0 entering the fourth. Junior Spencer Iacovone changed that with a loud boom - hammering a Zak Farmer pitch deep over the left center field fence to cut the Firebird lead in half. Sophomore Zack Shannon followed Iacovone's home run with a single. A fielder's choice moved Shannon to second. After a fly out, senior Nick Edwards reached on an error that scored Shannon. Junior Brian Butz smoked a double down the right field line to score Edwards to give Big Moe a 3-2 lead. Moe's offense was not done yet. The Crusaders scored eight in the home half of the fifth. Senior Ryan LeFevers led off with a single. Senior Ty Amann drove LeFevers home with a triple. It was Amann's seventh triple of the season to tie a school record. Iacovone then singled in Amann. After a fly out, senior Jordan Simpson doubled in pinch runner Justin Wampler. A new pitcher was brought in for West. Senior Brad Macciocchi singled moving Simpson to third. After Macciocchi stole second, senior Nick Edwards singled in both Simpson and Macciocchi. After Edwards stole second, Butz hit his second double of the day down the right field line to score Edwards. Sophomore Riley Mahan joined the hit parade and singled moving Butz to third while taking second on the throw home. After another West call to the bullpen, Butz scored on a wild pitch moving Mahan to third. LeFevers, batting for the second time in the inning then walked and stole second - moving him two stolen bases shy of tying the career stolen base record. Amann then walked. Iacovone then hit a sac fly to score Mahan. After a fly out, the inning finally came to an end. Eight runs on eight hits. Game over. Moe moves to 21-5 and will take on Lakota East in the District Finals on Saturday at 11AM at Western Hills High School.