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'Cats Fall To Notre Dame In District Semifinal

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By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

CAPE GIRARDEAU - Cody Heisserer's dominating performance on the mound during Monday's Class 3, District 1 semifinal contest led the Notre Dame Bulldgos to a 3-0 victory over the Dexter Bearcats.

Notre Dame's ace struck out 13 batters during the complete game, three-hit shutout.

"We knew that he would work us away the whole time; we started crowding the plate in the middle innings, and it worked on him for a little bit," head coach Brian Becker said after the game. "It messed with his command, and he gave us a few walks, but Heisserer is one of the best pitchers in the state - he threw an outstanding ball game for them and he deserved the win."

Brad Potts advanced to third base after a one-out single in the top of the first inning, but the Bearcats weren't able to capitalize; in total, the 'Cats stranded six base-runners on the day.

Dexter starter Alex Cliff threw six innings of three-hit ball, but an early walk and four infield errors behind him would prove fatal for the 'Cats. Despite the undesirable outcome, Becker noted the senior's effort and composure on the mound.

"We had an opportunity early there in the first, but just didn't capitalize on it, and that came back and bit us," he said. "Alex Cliff threw a heck of a game; he deserved a better fate. We kicked the ball around a few times out there; the biggest mistake he made all day was walking the number nine hitter on a 3-2 pitch; he came around to score what would wind up being the winning run."

The Bulldogs would tack on two runs in the third inning, thanks to an RBI single from Jonathan Lynch and a hard-hit ball from Chase Simmons that caused an error and allowed Lynch to score.

Heisserer would help his case in the bottom of the sixth with a sac fly to right fielder Josh Overall that scored Chase Urhahn for the third run of the game.

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on in the fifth inning and drew a walk in the seventh. Jordan Miller connected on a double in the sixth, with Potts' single in the first inning rounding out the Bearcats' production at the plate in the loss.

The 'Cats end the season with a 17-8 record - the team's third straight 17 win season - and will lose four seniors next season. Becker had nothing but great things to say about his seniors, and noted that they would be missed on the roster next year.

"Alex [Cliff] worked hard out there today," Becker said. "He threw a heck of a game and gutted it out on the mound, and I couldn't be more proud of his effort. Daniel Fitts did a good job for us patrolling the outfield; he struggled with the stick a bit this year, but when he hit it he hit it hard."

"Owen Flowers did a heck of a job for us this year; he's the most improved baseball player, from freshman year to senior year, that I've had. He made a lot of strides, and you can attribute all that to his work ethic. He worked hard in the offseason, he stayed extra after practice a lot of times; he came out and did a good job for us on the mound and in the field," he continued. "Josh [Overall] did a great job for us in the infield; his bat started out a little cold, but it warmed up as the year went on. I'm proud of the effort he gave on the mound this year, too. All four of them will definitely be missed; they had a good senior campaign."

The 21-4 Bulldogs will move on to face the Kennett Indians in the Class 3, District 1 Championship game on Wednesday night; the Tribe defeated Ste. Genevieve 5-1 in

Monday's nightcap.

Photos Above:

Top: Senior Alex Cliff went the distance for the 'Cats, striking out five batters and giving up just three hits in the loss.

Bottom: First basemen Brad Potts prepares for a tag after a pickoff move from Cliff.

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