

Bellhorn's No-Hitter Sends Lions to Regionals

By RYAN ANDERSON
Sanford Herald

OVIEDO- Good things come to those who wait.

With sophomore Todd Bellhorn tossing a no-hitter, the Oviedo Lions found this to be true Friday night as they beat the Lake Brantley Patriots 3-0 in the 4-A-District 9 championship game.

The win marks the first time the Lions have won a district baseball title as a Class 4A school. They won a 3A title in 1988.

"Lake Brantley is the standard that the other teams try to measure up to," Oviedo coach Mike Ferrell said. "We have been taking a back seat to them for the last four years and we worked to play them, we wanted to play them. I have nothing but respect for them. We earned it against a very hard team and I'm proud of it."

Bellhorn (3-1) blanked the Patriots, who were district champions two of the last three years. Last year, Lake Brantley lost in the district finals to DeLand.

"Todd has been hurt with tendinitis and was out for a week. Fortunately, it was over spring break," Ferrell said. "We were lucky we thought to get him back where he could play center field because he is one of our better hitters. Todd warmed up before Thursday's game and he said he felt fine. We asked him to give us a few good innings and he gave us seven."

Bellhorn, and his older brother Mark, led the hitting assault on Patriot pitchers Frank Harmer and Brett Black.

Mark Bellhorn got things going for Oviedo in the bottom of the third inning when he drilled a shot over the center field wall with the bases empty to lead off the inning.

After a series of hits and a walk loaded the bases, Todd Bellhorn was hit by a pitch to force in Timmy Slavik. Mike Rugenious capped the rally with an RBI single, driving home Kevin Twiggs.

Harmer (1-2) started for the Patriots and gave up three runs on six hits with two walks and two strikeouts in three innings. Black came in for the fourth inning and gave up three hits and striking out five.

Todd Bellhorn, who struck out four and walked three may have had a little more motivation to get the win after suffering the loss to DeLand in the district tournament opener last year and getting a no decision in a 6-5 loss to the Patriots earlier in the year.

April 26, 1992

Sanford Herald

The Lions will play Boone High School Tuesday in the regional game.

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