

LONGEST OHIO HIGH SCHOOL GAME

Ross Nipped In District Finals, 2-1

DESHLER — Longest known game in the history of Ohio high school baseball was played here Saturday with Central Catholic taking a 2-1 district final victory from Fremont Ross in 17 innings. Losing Coach Don Purvis expressed pride in his team and singled out spectacular fielding and the strong arm of Terry Bork.

"What can you say to them? You didn't give me enough!," remarked Purvis as he was lost for words in expressing the pride he had in his team.

The game was not only the longest but an oddity of diamond perfection for a high school game. In 17 innings each team committed only one error and one of these was the margin for victory. In the same period of time the pitchers of the opposing teams gave up a combination of only 13 hits and two

earned runs. There wasn't an extra base hit in the ball game and pitchers recorded 36 strikeouts.

Tom Boardman started for Central Catholic but injured an ankle sliding into a base in the third inning. Mike Murnen came on and pitched 15 innings, allowing four hits, one run, striking out 16 and walking four. Purvis noted that Murnen appeared to get stronger as the game drew longer.

Bork finally tired and gave up three successive singles for the winning run in the 17th inning, but even these were not of the hard hit variety. Two of the last inning hits were of the broken bat variety and the third looped just over the infield into right field. Only one of seven hits in the game did Central batters get around on the ball far enough to hit to left field.

For 16 innings Bork was throwing a four-hitter. He gave up three walks and one of these was intentional, called for by Purvis in the 12th innings. He struck out 15 and retired the side in order in nine of the 17 innings. The senior right-hander toiled on the mound for the four and one-half hour game.

Purvis heaped praise on the left side of his infield, noting that both Mike Hirt and Tim Thomas made numerous spectacular plays. Hirt, who played errorless ball, snared one hard hit ball toward the hole, slipped on the wet infield and then from one knee threw out the runner at first base.

Other than the two innings in which Central scored Bork was in trouble once, in the 12th inning. He hit the first batter who was followed by a single. On a grounder to shortstop Thomas

threw to Junior Pence to get one runner at second. With men on first and third and one out Purvis ordered the intentional walk to load the bases. Bork struck out the next man he faced and forced the following batter to ground out to first baseman Steve Fausey unassisted.

Early in the game Ross hit the ball well but right at somebody. Thomas flied out on three occasions to left, center and right field, all deep. Mike Hetrick sent a centerfielder back onto the skinned infield of an adjacent diamond, more than 350 feet from home field for one out.

Central opened the scoring in the second when Kielczewski hit a ground ball to shortstop and was safe on a throwing error. Ken Kielczewski reached second on the error. After strikeouts,

Andy Jankowski singled to right, driving in Kielczewski.

Ross came back in the third with three consecutive singles by Del Schultz, Terry Bork and Terry Swartz. Schultz tallied and Swartz was credited with the RBI.

The winning run was the result of singles by Bill Myers, Mike Simon and Ron Dreenan.

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Central Catholic				Ross			
ab	r	h	e	ab	r	h	e
Simon, cf	8	0	0	Pence, 2b	7	0	0
Boardman, p	1	0	0	Thomas, ss	7	0	0
Murnen, rf-p	8	0	1	Schultz, lf	7	1	2
Kielczewski, c	7	1	0	Bork, p	6	0	2
Moore, 2b	6	0	0	Swartz, cf	7	0	1
Jankowski, ss	7	0	2	Hirt, 3b	6	0	0
P. Murnen, lf	6	0	1	Raines, c	7	0	1
Schick, 1b	6	0	0	Hetrick, rf	5	0	0
Myers, 3b	7	1	2	Fausey, 1b	4	0	0
TOTALS	62	2	7	TOTALS	56	1	6
Central 010	000	000	000	001	—2	7	1
Frem't 001	000	000	000	000	00—1	6	1

Struck out by Bork, 15; Boardman, 4; Murnen, 16. Bases on balls by Bork, 3; Boardman, 1; Murnen, 4. Winning pitcher Murnen. Losing pitcher Bork. Hits off Bork 7 for 2 runs in 17 innings. Hits off Murnen 4 for 1 runs in 15 innings. Hits off Boardman 1 for 0 runs in 2 innings.

Milt Pappas