

By JOHN HENSON

Harlan County Schools

The Harlan County Black Bears won their first four district games by a whopping 80-4 margin, defeating Bell County and Harlan twice each.

Tyler Boggs doesn't usually need a whole lot of offense to win. The Harlan County offense provided much more than enough Tuesday in an 18-0 five-inning win over visiting Harlan.

Boggs, a junior right-hander, faced the minimum 12 hitters in four innings of work as he allowed only one hit and no walks while striking out eight in improving his record on the season to 6-0.

"He located well tonight," Harlan County coach John Lewis said. "Coach (Tim) McElyea deserves all the credit for our pitching. He's got in their head. If they hit the spots he wants, it will take them somewhere, and that's what they are doing."

Harlan County (17-2) pounded out 16 hits, led by senior shortstop Braxton Fields with a double and two singles and sophomore outfielder Blake Rutherford with three singles. Boggs, Tyler Dixon and Eddie Conley had two singles each. James Bond, Andrew Dozier, Tyler Cornett and John Austin Lewis had one single each.

"That was a little better performance at the plate than last night," Lewis said, referring to a 13-3 win over Harlan on Monday. "Our guys have developed a will to win. They still worry me a little at the plate. They have to get the fence out of their head and base hit people to death. The home runs ain't winning nothing."

Harlan (4-14) was limited to two singles, one each by Christian Turbyfill and Jacob Rich.

The Bears took a 2-0 lead in the first inning against Harlan starter Austin Miller as Scotty Bailey led off with a walk and scored on Fields' double. Fields stole third base and scored on an errant throw.

Dozier singled to lead off the second inning and scored on Bailey's sacrifice fly. Fields singled in one run and Dixon singled home two for a 6-0 lead.

Conley drove in one run with a single and Rutherford brought home two more with a single. An error brought home the final run of the inning and pushed the lead to 11-0.

Conley, Rutherford, Fields, Boggs and Dixon had RBI singles in the third inning as the lead grew to 17-0.

Harlan County added a final run in the fourth inning on singles by Cornett, Rutherford and Lewis.

Seventh-grader Jared Sizemore came on to pitch the final inning for the

Bears, striking out three and giving up one hit. Miller gave up 10 runs in 1 2/3 innings to suffer the loss. Dylan McNiel surrendered seven runs in 1 1/3 innings. Zach Hollins allowed one run in one inning

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Harlan County	296	1x	—	18	16	1

Miller, McNiel (2), Hollins (4) and Hollins, Wilson (4); Boggs, Sizemore (5) and Bailey. WP — Boggs (6-0). LP — Miller (0-2).

James Bond wasn't quite perfect, like he was six days ago at Bell County, but the junior right-hander was plenty good enough to help the Harlan County Black Bears win for the 14th time in 15 games and improve to 3-0 against district competition with a 13-3 five-inning victory Monday at Harlan. Bond struck out four and walked only one while giving up three unearned runs to improve his record to 3-2 and Harlan County's season mark to 16-2. "James Bond pitched a real good game," Harlan coach Robbie Burns. "We just aren't making the routine plays and we don't score enough to play that way."

Harlan County blew the game open with a six-run second inning, then added three runs in the third and fourth innings.

Bond also led the Harlan County offense with a double and two singles.

Scotty Bailey, the Bears' leadoff hitter, added three singles. Chris Southerland, Tyler Boggs and Braxton Fields had one single each.

Zach Hollins, a senior catcher, led the 4-13 Dragons with a double. Colby Wilson and Tye Patrick had one single each.

Marshall Ward started on the for Harlan and pitched 1 2/3 innings. Jacob Clark pitched two innings. Wilson recorded the final five outs, including a scoreless fifth inning.

The county rivals meet again today at Harlan County High School.

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Bond and Boggs; Ward, Clark (2), Wilson (4) and Hollins. WP — Bond (3-2). LP — Ward (0-3).

Harlan County scored 10 runs in the first inning and added 13 in the second on the way to a 26-1 rout of visiting Bell County on Monday.

Tyler Boggs and Jared Sizemore combined on a one-hitter. Boggs (4-0) pitched three innings, giving up the lone run while recording six strikeouts.

Sizemore, a seventh-grader, had four strikeouts in two innings of work.

The Black Bears collected 14 hits led by Scotty Bailey with two triples.

James Bond doubled and singled while Jacob Hensley and Tyler Cornett

each singled twice. Andrew Dozier added a triple. Braxton Fields, Tyler Dixon, Conner Leisge, Blake Rutherford and Mark Ward each contributed one single.

“We put the bat on the ball and were patient,” said Harlan County coach John Lewis. “They gave up some walks and that’s about it.”

Jacob Rose, a freshmen third baseman, had Bell’s only hit in the second inning.

Evan Brock, Zach Turner, Jordan Slusher and Austin North saw action on the mound for the Bobcats.

The Bears were without two seniors. Stephen Dozier is injured and Eddie Conley missed due to sickness.

Harlan County (12-2) returns to action today at Bell County (1-10) at 5:30 p.m.

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WP — Boggs (4-0). LP — Brock.

James Bond retired all 15 batters he faced, tossing a perfect game Tuesday as the Harlan County Black Bears coasted to a 23-0 district win at Bell County.

Bond struck out 10 and allowed only ball out of the infield as he improved to 2-2 on the season.

Junior catcher Tyler Boggs led the Bears' 18-hit attack with a homer, double and single for five RBI. Bond had four singles and two RBI. Blake Rutherford had a double and two singles. Scotty Bailey had a double and single and two RBI. Braxton Fields drove in three runs with two singles. Andrew Dozier had a triple. Tyler Dixon doubled. Nick Cornett and Chris Southerland had one single each. Southerland also drove in four runs.

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Bell County	000	00	—	0 0 3

Bond and Boggs; Smith, Slusher (4) and Jenkins. WP — Boggs (2-2). LP — Smith.