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AROUND MONTANA

Bozeman 13U team advances at state

By Chronicle Staff

Bozeman, North Bitterroot and Belgrade had little trouble Saturday as they advanced to the semifinals of the state Babe Ruth 13-year-old baseball tournament, but the Great Falls Amigos had the easiest time of all.

The Amigos, who have a 36-3 record this season, accepted a forfeit from Havre as the Hi-Line team declined to play. That gave coach Mike McLean's Amigos a free pass into this morning's semifinals at 10 at Don Olson Field against Bozeman, which rolled past the Gallatin Valley Warriors, 16-0.

The Belgrade Bandits earned their way into the semifinals with an 11-3 romp over Glacier. Belgrade will face Bitterroot, which trounced Kalispell, 17-6. That game starts at 10 on the Babe Ruth Field.

The semifinal winners return at 2 p.m. at the Babe Ruth diamond for the championship game. Since Bozeman is playing host to the Babe Ruth Regionals next weekend, Montana is guaranteed two teams at that tournament. If Bozeman wins the title today, the runner-up also advances.

The state tourney was delayed Saturday morning because Gallatin Valley and Kalispell had to finish a contest suspended by Friday night's storm. The Warriors took a 3-1 lead into Saturday morning and emerged with a 9-5 victory.

Bozeman scored five runs in the second, six in the third and five in the fourth in its quarterfinal romp over Gallatin Valley, which is based in White-

hall and has players from several communities.

Bozeman lashed out 11 hits, three by Isaac Thompson and two each by Zem Boie and Brandyn Stoneberg. The Warriors managed only two hits in five innings, by Conor McNamara and Bryce Murphy.

SOUTHERN A TOURNAMENT ROLLS ON:

At Deer Lodge, rain and inclement weather played with game-time schedules for the first two rounds.

In the championship bracket, the Livingston Braves beat the Gallatin Valley Outlaws, 10-8, to move to 2-0. The Braves faced the Helena Reps late Saturday night for the right to move to the championship game.

In the Gallatin Valley-Livingston game, Brave's Chad Becker and Landon Willyard each went 3-for-5 while Sam Bisson and Riley Kurschner were both 2-for-5. Outlaw Cameron Frost was 2-for-5 with 5 runs batted in and Ben Elsbernd was 3-for-5.

The Outlaws rebounded from their loss to beat the Dillon Cubs 5-4 in a battle of No. 1 seeds. Gallatin Valley put up four runs in the bottom of the sixth to pull ahead for good. Conner Moore got the win in relief while Frost and Matt Enriquez combined for two home runs and four RBIs. Frost went 2-for-3 to finish the day 4-for-8.

The Deer Lodge Wranglers beat the Bozeman Spikes, 4-3, ending the Spikes' tournament run. The Wranglers scored three runs in the last two innings to pull out the comeback victory. Gorbin Gates and Trevor Shellenberg each went 2-for-4.