

Eaton in hunt for state title

Reds pitcher steps up in windy weather

BY ROSS MAAK
maak@greeleytrib.com

FORT MORGAN — Even though the wind was whipping against Eaton, Reds pitcher Dusty Dominguez was able to whip Cañon City with a commanding performance on the mound.

Dominguez stepped up to the windy weather, pitching nearly six perfect innings. He faced the minimum number of batters, struck out six and walked none. Just two batters reached base, both on errors.

The first reached to lead off the third inning. He was advanced to third on two sacrifice bunts but was thrown out at home trying to score on a wild pitch.

Then, in the sixth, another Cañon City batter reach on an error with one out. Dominguez immediately threw to first twice, picking off the runner on his second try.

The rest of Dominguez's day was perfect during Eaton's 12-0 victory over Cañon City. The victory puts Eaton in the championship game of the American Legion B state tournament at 1 p.m. today.

Dominguez, who doesn't dominate with a fastball but rather a crisp curve and slider, shocked a few people with his performance. He'd already pitched five innings Wednesday in a victory over Greeley Central. In that game, he walked five and struck out three.

"My mechanics were off Wednesday," Dominguez said. "Coach (Jim) Danley helped me figure out what I was doing wrong."

Danley said Dominguez was off-kilter a little before, but certainly straightened things out before shutting down Cañon City.

"His rhythm was off," Danley said. "It's called being late, but basically the bottom half of his body was coming out too soon. He had his slider but no curveball. We just worked on getting his weight back into the right place."

Whatever they did, it worked. Typically a curveball will bite more if a pitcher throws into the wind. Dominguez had a stiff wind blowing with him, making it even more difficult.

"He was just outstanding today," Danley said. "I think (Cañon City) was

state baseball



Dominguez

● West loses /

C2

● Legion A / **C6**