

# Double No-Hitter Kreinbrink, C. Menke Turn Feat Thursday

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No-hitters are rare in baseball, but neither team getting a hit is even rarer.

But that was the case Thursday afternoon at Leipsic as Fort Jennings and Leipsic squared off in Putnam County League action.

The Vikings Nick Kreinbrink and Fort Jennings Craig Menke combined on the rare feat. Leipsic won the game 1-0 as they scored an unearned run in the first inning.

The win improved the Vikings to 3-0 in the PCL and overall, while the Musketeers dipped to 1-1 in the league and 5-2 overall.

“I’ve coached high school baseball for 23 years and I never saw a double no-hitter before today (Thursday),” said Leipsic Coach Ted Miller. “It was a classic match up of two of the better Division IV pitchers in this part of the state. Both of them pitched outstanding baseball.”

“It’s not something you expect (a double no-hitter),” said Ft. Jennings Coach Dave Luersman. “My hats off to both pitchers, they were on top of their games.”

The only run of the game came in the first inning as Brian Newell grounded out to second base, but the throw sailed into the Viking dugout. Newell took third on a sacrifice bunt by Aric Christman and scored on a wild pitch.

Brice Schroeder followed with a walk and stole second base. Nick Kreinbrink reached on an error, but neither runner advanced

another base as the Vikings first inning rally ended with a strikeout.

The Musketeers would get a runner as far as third base in the game with two outs in the fifth but a strikeout ended the inning.

Kreinbrink (2-0) picked up the win as he struck out 14 batters and walked three batters over the final three innings. The senior lefthander has yet to yield a hit in 11 innings this season. This also was his second no-hitter in high school as he pitched a no-hitter in the district semi-finals last season.

Menke (1-1) took the loss as he struck out 11 batters and walked five. The Musketeers were charged with three errors in the game.

“Give Nick a lot of credit, he didn’t give us a chance to capitalize on any mistake,” Luersman said. “But I have to give Craig a lot of credit too. He was shaky early, but then settled down and pitched a great game. After the first inning he really shut them down.”

“Leipsic is a great team and they took advantage of an early break and made it stand up.”

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