

Vikings Defeat Wildcats for District Final Berth

Miller - Kern Face Off for Final Time on Diamond

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For the third straight season Leipsic and Miller City were playing for a spot in the district finals.

While advancing in the tournament is important to any team, there was an underlying story to this game.

Leipsic coach Ted Miller and the Wildcats' Dan Kern have coached against each for 27 years. With Miller retiring at the end of the current season this was the two coaches' final meeting on the field. And although Kern holds the edge in all-time wins against Miller, the Leipsic coach won the final meeting.

Leipsic scored four times in the top of the eighth inning Wednesday evening at Columbus Grove to claim a 9-5 Division IV district semi-final win.

The Vikings (15-5) will advance to the Division IV district title game today (Wednesday). They will go against Ada at Elida High School. Ada advanced to the title game with

a seventh inning rally against Lima Perry Wednesday.

Miller City fell from the tournament with a 15-9 record.

“Dan and I talked about it before the game,” Miller said. “We have coached against each other for 27 years and this was the final game we will go head-to-head.”

“I have a great deal of respect for Dan Kern and his baseball program. They have had some excellent talent over the years and they were always tough to beat. I know he has the all-time series lead, it's probably not even close, but I'm just happy to get this one.”

“If I was going to lose to someone, I'm glad it was him (Ted).” Miller City coach Dan Kern said, “It's not like I wanted to lose to Leipsic, but personally I was glad to see him advance and have a chance to get back to the regional. This is a great way for him to go out.”