

Grove Hurler Comes Within One Out of No – Hitter

Umpire leaves the field and a fan takes over!

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Freshman Jim Altstaetter of Columbus Grove was within one out of posting a no-hitter at Vaughnsville last week before the Vikings' Larry Hughes spoiled his bid with a single in the last of the seventh inning. Grove won 7-0.

Altstaetter retired the side in order in four innings as he picked up eight strikeouts.

Bulldog batters pounded two Vaughnsville pitchers for nine hits as Jerry Tabler drove home three runs with a triple and Avery Douglas three more with a single and a double. Denny Earl drove home the other with a single. Grove scored five of their runs in the sixth inning.

The official status of the game was left in doubt as Umpire Harry Birkemeier declared the contest ended while Vaughnsville was batting in the seventh inning. The umpire ordered a Vaughnsville player off the bench and when he refused to leave the umpire called the game and left. A spectator took over behind the plate for the last three batters.

If the game had ended when the umpire left the field, Altstaetter would have had his no-hitter. But since both coaches decided to finish the game with a “fan-umpire”, the no-hitter was ruined.