Mariner Baseball Wins 17th Consecutive

By John Sandstrom

The Silver Bay Mariner baseball team earned a one-sided win Monday afternoon in Silver Bay with a win over Wrenshall.

The final games of the regular season can be important in the seeding for the 7A playoffs that begin next week. The Mariners have only one loss, a one run defeat to South Ridge in early April, and will be competing with them for the top seed in the south section of 7A. The playoff games will be held at one of four neutral sites including Hibbing, Proctor, Cloquet and Mesabi East.

When the playoff format is finalized, Coach Ward Wallin expects to play an afternoon game on Tuesday, June 1st. The winner of that contest will play a second game that day. After the first game, the playoffs are double elimination with the championship game scheduled for June 8th at Mesabi East.

Senior first baseman Ryan Bilben says he was pleasantly surprised by how well this year's team melded. "We turned it around after the loss to South Ridge and have really gotten on a roll." Bilben, who was a goalie for the North Shore Storm, said "It has been a great ride. My favorite part of the season has been seeing Ero (Wallin) hit nine home runs. As much fun as it has been, we still have a lot of work to do this year. We will have to face some good teams to have a shot in the playoffs".

Monday, the Mariners broke open a close game in the third and cruised to an 11-1 win in five innings. Jake Stadler, Ero Wallin, and Jacob Carpenter handled the pitching duties. Wallin crushed his ninth home run of the season and finished two for two. Ryder McMillen and Cash Williams each added a pair of hits while Luc Stadler, Sully

Tikkanen and Manor Ollman added doubles.

Wallin is currently leading the state in batting average, runs batted in, and pitching wins. At last report, he is tied for the lead with nine home runs.





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