

Hastings bats bruise Bulldogs

Austin drops 20-5A matchup to Bears 11-1

By PHILLIP BAEZA

HOUSTON—The young Austin Bulldogs took it on the chin from the Hastings Bears Friday night at Alief Field.

The Bears ended the game on the 10-run rule over the Bulldogs, 11-1, in five innings in a district 20-5A baseball contest.

Austin head baseball coach Todd Moehlig said that his team had not played that poorly in a long time. "We probably should not have even showed up. We have been playing competitively lately," Moehlig said. "I guess we're still struggling with our youth."

The Bulldogs' youth, coupled with good hitting by Hastings, kept Austin in a hole the entire game.

After sitting down 1-2-3 in the top of the first, Austin pitcher John Warmke was battered by the Hastings bats for three runs on three hits.

Adding to the Bulldogs' woes were four errors for the game, all eventually leading to runs across the plate.

Warmke tried to atone for Hastings' first inning runs by knocking a solo homer over the right field fence in the top of the second.

Hastings catcher Chris Andrews hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the second, highlighting another three-run inning by the Bears.

In the third, first baseman Nick Jones led off with a single and the only other batter to reach base was Troy Holt on a walk.

Warmke was relieved by Steven Ramirez in the third inning, but Ramirez did not fare any better.

Ramirez struck out the first batter he faced then gave up an RBI single and uncorked a wild pitch for another run in the inning.

In the fourth, Ramirez and Jacob Gobar both hit singles. Gobar was

caught in a run-down for one out and Ramirez was eventually stranded on base.

In the bottom of the fourth, Hastings scored two more runs to extend its lead to 10 points.

Austin was put in the position of having to score at least one run in the top of the fifth for the game to continue. Hastings pitcher David Leigh-Page retired the side ending the game.

Austin now posts a district

record of 5-10 and 8-16 overall with one game remaining in its inaugural-season schedule.

The Bulldogs will end their season Saturday against Dulles at 2 p.m. at Austin High School.

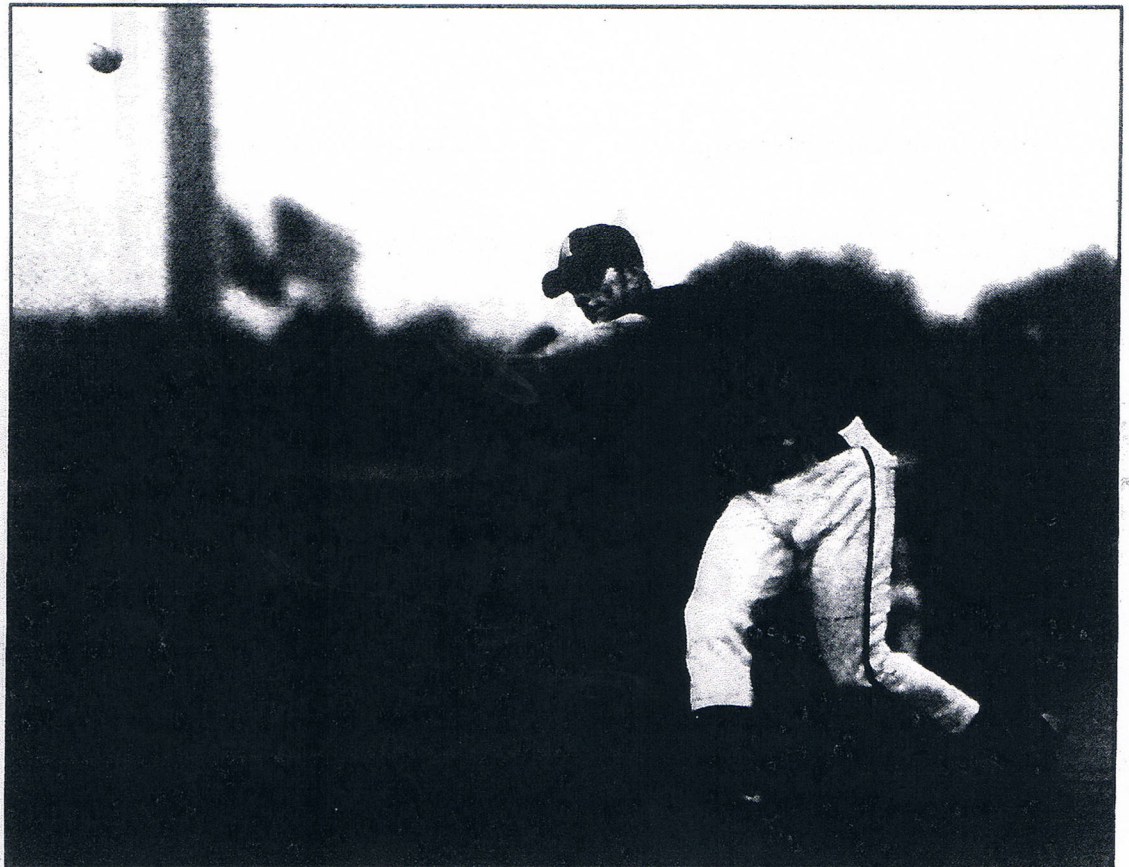
Despite knowing his Austin team will end the season with a losing record, Moehlig is upbeat about the season and its future.

"Out of our ten district loses, six of them went down to the last inning, with us having a chance to

win the game," Moehlig said. "We really have nothing to hang our heads about this season, we kept ourselves competitive the whole year, with a few exceptions."

"Our entire team will be back next year and we'll only be better," Moehlig added.

Austin	010 00-144
Hastings	333 2x-1190
WP-David	Leigh-Page.
LP-John	Warmke.



Warmke express

Austin's John Warmke had a rough outing on the mound against the Hastings Bears Friday evening at Alief Field. Warmke also recorded the Bulldogs' only run of the game, a solo homerun in the second inning.

Staff photo by Phillip Baeza