

Butler Overcomes Great Springboro Effort

By B.J. Bethel, Staff Writer
12:54 AM Sunday, May 22, 2011

MIAMISBURG — The Springboro High School baseball team came into the postseason with a sub-.500 record. It left by putting a scare into the No. 2 team in the state.

The Panthers fought through four lead changes and two Vandalia Butler comebacks, but fell to the Aviators 9-6 on Saturday in the Division I district baseball final at Miamisburg High School.

Springboro had led as late as the bottom of the sixth inning, but couldn't hold back a powerful Butler lineup. The Aviators tied the game with a single by Chris Mayhill. After a bases-loaded walk, Kyle Winkle singled and drove in two more runs to give the Aviators a three-run lead and their first district title since 2008.

"I give our guys credit," Butler coach Trent Dues said. "We got behind and kept plucking away."

Springboro scored three runs early against Butler starter Kyle Fain. The Aviators tied it in the fifth, then took the lead in the sixth on a two-run home run by catcher Lance Straley.

Springboro retook the lead with a two-run single by Colin Maher in the sixth, but ran out of magic — and runs.

Austin Craine came in to close the seventh. He struck out two and forced John Kramer to pop out to end the game.

Springboro was streaky during the season, but put it together late, including a title in the Greater Western Ohio Conference South Division.

"I think we had a team that showed in spurts this year that we could play very well," Springboro coach Mark Pelfrey said. "We just didn't show any consistency. When the tournament got here, they turned it on and played very consistent baseball throughout."

Dues credited his team for its resilience — especially Straley, who has battled health issues.

"A lot of credit to that kid," Dues said. "He's battled through diabetes the last year. It has been the story of these guys this season. They just don't get fazed. That's the great thing about them. Hopefully, we can keep it going."