

Grande Prairie provincial champions after double victory

Wayne Johnson's eighth-inning two-run homer off losing pitcher Doug Hipkin Sunday gave Grande Prairie an 8-6 victory over Edmonton Salisbury to win the weekend's provincial Intermediate "A" fastball tournament at Lions' Park.

Johnson's poke broke a 6-6

tie which forced the two clubs into extra innings. Grande Prairie had knotted the score in the seventh on Stu Miller's RBI single, scoring Dennis Prefontaine, after trailing 6-5.

Salisbury jumped out to a five-run lead in the first frame as 10 players went to bat. Dave Rehill knocked in two

runs and Ron Liepert, Al Strachan and Lorne Furhop added single RBI's to pace the outburst.

Grande Prairie surged back in the third with runs by Ray Prefontaine, Don McIsaac and Stan Dombrova and added two more in the fifth as Johnson and Dennis Prefontaine crossed the plate.

That set the stage for Miller's game-tying RBI and

the winning homer by Johnson.

Winning pitcher was Gerald Campbell, in relief of Ray Prefontaine.

The game was the second consecutive between the two clubs, as a victory by Grande Prairie directly previous forced the final showdown. In that one, Ray Prefontaine picked up the win in extra innings, 4-3, as Johnson again provided the winning margin with an RBI single in the ninth. The two clubs went into extra innings when Grande Prairie catcher Ken Bruno singled in Stu Miller with the tying run, making it 3-3.

Grande Prairie had taken a 1-0 lead in the first as Stan Dombrova crossed the plate but Salisbury came right back to tie it in its half of the opening frame, as Liepert scored.

Joe Winter knocked in Grande Prairie's other tally in the fourth while John Stevens and Doug Herbert scored for Salisbury's other two markers.

Prefontaine allowed just three hits in gaining the win, striking out three and walking two. Losing hurler was Salisbury's Larry Seizman.

Two two wins gave Grande Prairie a 4-1 record in wins

and losses as the club also defeated Lethbridge Pic-a-Pop 12-1 and 4-2 Dombrova slammed two home runs and Ray Prefontaine clubbed one two-run blast in picking up the win on the mound in the first tilt, the first of his two wins.

In the clubs' second meeting, Campbell picked up the win while Richard Merrier absorbed the loss.

Medicine Hat reps Cecil Hotel were eliminated early in the double-knockout tourney

as they lost to Lethbridge 4-2 in the teams' second game. Two runs in the fourth, driven in by Al Kennedy and Stan Boser, allowed Lethbridge to overtake Cecil's 2-1 lead and make it 3-2. Jim Kaip knocked in an insurance run in the fifth against Cecil loser Dick Pittman.

Cecil scored its two runs in the first on Doug Miller's two-run double.

The local entry nailed down its only victory of the affair as

Cecil edged Olds Chiefs 3-2 behind the pitching of Al Baird and Rod Insko. Baird received credit for the win while Insko relieved in the sixth to nail down the save.

Paul Lundy and Baird drove in runs for the winners.

The final standings:

	W	L
Grande Prairie	4	1
Salisbury (Ed.)	2	2
Lethbridge	2	2
Cecil Hotel	1	2
Olds Chiefs	0	2



GRANDE PRAIRIE CATCHER STU MILLER BLOCKS HOME PLATE DURING FINAL GAME SUNDAY. (NEWS photo Doug Brown)