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## OCA breezes past Landmark Christian

**BY LARRY ROSS**

**SPECIAL TO THE STAR-BANNER**

Ocala - There was the sound of loud thunder reverberating around the OCA baseball diamond yesterday afternoon, but it wasn't the weather. Instead, it was the sound of OCA metal bats pounding the baseball all over the field in a Florida Christian Conference quarterfinal game.

The host Crusaders, led by pitcher Steve O'John and hitters Evan Land, Jordan Patswald and Zak Bernard, crushed visiting Landmark Christian, 12-2, in a six-inning game.

The tourney's No. 1 seed, OCA's record improved to 17-1.

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OCA scored three runs in the third inning against Patriot pitcher Kyle Allen to break open what had been a close game.

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Jarrett Burgwin, Land and Josh Ellzey all came around to score on a series of walks, stolen bases and Patriot errors.

O'John came on to pitch in the fourth and silenced the Patriot bats for the rest of the game. O'John gave up no hits and no walks in the three innings he pitched.

OCA Coach Ron Carpenter said O'John has been a force for the Crusaders out of the bullpen.

"He will get you three good innings, that's for sure," Carpenter said. "He really has great control."

OCA added four more runs in the fourth to take a commanding 8-2 lead. A leadoff double by Patswald and a pair of walks filled the bases for Evan Land's double.

The exclamation point came in the sixth inning in the form of back-to-back home runs by seniors Bernard, his seventh of the year, and Land, his fifth, to finish off the rout.

Land finished the game with a double, a home run, three RBIs and two walks.

The Crusaders will face a to-be-determined opponent Tuesday in the FCC semifinals.

**NORTH MARION 6, LAKE WEIR 2.** Cody Scully earned the win for the Colts by registering four strikeouts over four innings and allowing two runs and two walks.

Kainon Moore had three hits, two RBIs and two stolen bases for the Colts. Cade Smith added two hits and three RBIs. Matt Seese had one hit and three stolen bases.

North Marion (11-11) next plays Lecanto at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the first round of the district playoffs in Dunnellon.

**VANGUARD 4, BELLEVIEW 2.** At Ocala, Brad D'Ambrosio hit a walk-off two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth to lead the Knights to victory.

D'Ambrosio went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Josh Sartorius added a two-run single.

Vanguard tied the game in the sixth inning on a two-out, two-run single by Eric Grabe.

Chris Spore earned the win for Vanguard by giving up no runs in two innings of work.

Vanguard plays Lake Weir in the first round of the district playoffs on Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Gainesville.

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