

Eaton captures another state trophy

Pitcher works way out of jam, guides team to Legion B title

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The setting was Fort Morgan's Eddie Underwood legion park, not the OK Corral.

It started a few minutes after 1 p.m., not at high noon.

And the weapon of choice was an

legionBstate

assortment of fastballs and curveballs, not western-style shotguns.

But Eaton's own young gun, sophomore pitcher Jared Hungenberg, still reminded coach Jim Danley of an old-fashioned western gunslinger with his Doc Holiday-like performance under pressure.

"He has the cool of a gunfighter out there," Danley said of his 15-year-old ace. "His maturity is what sets him apart from other kids his age. He can get in a hole and pull himself out."

The whole gang at the OK Corral would have been proud of Hungenberg's cool as he calmly pitched himself out of jams in Eaton's 7-1 Legion B State Championship victory over Pueblo Centennial on Sunday.

With two outs in the seventh inning, Eaton's Jordan Nation and Hungenberg collided as



Hungenberg

● Legion A
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they tried to snag a routine fly ball hit by Pueblo's John Sandoval in hopes to secure the game's final out.

But to no avail, Sandoval was on base, and a moment later, Pueblo's Jerry Salazar was knocking out a hit, driving Sandoval home.

But instead of letting the costly mishap turn into a big inning for Pueblo, Hungenberg showed his cool by striking out cleanup hitter Chad Richardson, ending the tournament.

"It was frustrating having that collision," Hungenberg said. "But I just focused harder and got that last out."

In true gunslinger fashion, Hungenberg even overcame his own wildness as he shook off a hit batter and four walks.

"He didn't have his best stuff because of pitching on such little rest, but he still got us the outs," Danley said. "That's something a lot of seniors and juniors can't do. That's what makes him so special for a 15-year-old."

Like any famous gunfighter, Hun-

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