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CHRIS KERR/CHRONICLE

Anaconda's Eric Boyd pitches against the Belgrade Bandits during the Southern A district tournament in Livingston on Friday.

SEVERSON'S SWING

Livingston catcher lifts Braves over Bozeman Spikes, 9-6

By **GIDAL KAISER**
Chronicle Sports Writer

LIVINGSTON — Sometime in August, Mike Severson will pack up all his belongings and head eastward towards Dickinson, North Dakota.

He'll head to the Peace Garden state after accepting a scholarship to play for the Dickinson State University Bluehawks. Until that day, however, his ultimate goal is to

be a Livingston Brave as long as possible.

Thanks to his effort at the plate Thursday night, that goal will last at least two more days.

Severson's solo home run brought his Braves within one run of No. 5 seed Bozeman in the Southern A District Tournament game; his sharp single to right-centerfield an inning later plated the go-ahead runs in a 9-6 come-from-behind victory. The senior catcher went 3-for-4 with four runs batted in as the

Braves (22-26) advanced to play No. 1 seed Belgrade (35-17) at 6 p.m. today.

Severson's homer came on DJ Perdaems' 68th pitch and started the pendulum that brought the tournament host's mood from sad to happy and the visiting teams' from joy to pain. Perdaems walked Colton Landreth to lead off the bottom of the sixth inning, then relinquished back-to-back singles to juice the bases.

Bozeman head coach Matt

Wild replaced Perdaems with Jenner Kearns, and the reliever promptly gave up a run-scoring single to Austin Carroll to knot the game at 6. Severson followed with his own base knock, a hit that brought in two runs for Livingston's first lead since 4-2 after the first inning.

Austin Carroll reached home in the eighth on a Tanner Hall single to end the scoring.

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“Yeah, I want to play here as long as I can,” Severson said. “(College) is not even on my mind yet. It’s all about legion, still.

“You just have to stay within yourself,” he added about the dinger. “That’s what my coach always tells me. If you can see the ball and put a good swing on it, it will go.”

“It’s exciting; (Mike) came through big for us tonight,” Livingston head coach Matt Schad noted. “But he’s been here all year for us; it wasn’t anything different than he’s done all year.”

It was the second comeback of the day for the

Braves; Bozeman (13-28) went up 2-0 in the top of the first before the Braves got to Perdaems for four runs in the bottom stanza. The Spikes plated four runs on four hits, a walk and two Livingston errors in the third and fourth innings, but also didn’t take advantage of other opportunities.

Bozeman left 13 runners on base.

“We left a lot of guys on base. We’ve had that problem,” Wild said.

“Who wants to step up with that big hit? We had a couple big ones, but we need it consistently for nine innings.”

For box score and recaps of other Thursday games see page B3.

