

May 30, 2012

## [Vikings ready to meet Albion](#)

By Mike Meiler Niagara Gazette

The last time the Grand Island baseball team played Albion, the Vikings beat the Purple Eagles, 9-3, in the 2009 Section VI Class A championship at Coca Cola Field and earned a trip to the Far West Regionals.

The 2012 Vikings will look for similar results when they take on the Purple Eagles at 5 p.m. today at Sal Maglie Stadium in this year's Class A championship.

"Talking to a few people around the area, they're always a very good hitting team and have been for years," Grand Island coach Dean Santorio said. "They're always near the top of their division, and just like any team you'll see at this level, their top four or five in the lineup will be very good. Obviously, if they've come this far, they have to have some good pitching as well."

The Vikings, the No. 3 seed in Class A-1, earned a walk-off, 14-13 win over 4-Williamsville East in Tuesday's A-1 final. They beat 7-Williamsville South in the semifinals and 6-Hamburg in the quarters.

The Purple Eagles were the No. 2 seed in Class A-2 and beat 7-Lewiston-Porter in the quarters, 3-East Aurora in the semis and 4-Maryvale in the finals.

Santorio said senior John McGinty will probably start the game, despite throwing a complete game in the semis on Friday and earning the win on Tuesday, pitching two innings in relief.

"He felt pretty good after the last game," Santorio said. "We'll probably go with him and see how many innings he can give us. I'm not afraid to throw A.J. (Jasek, who threw 46 pitches Tuesday) back in for a few innings or to go to (sophomore) Quinn Carrao off the bench."

None of the current Vikings played in the championship three years ago, and Santorio said he's excited for his current group to experience playing for a trip to regionals.

"It's a new experience for these kids," he said. "It's great for them to get to this round and play at this level.

"We have 11 seniors. It's great for them to get this far and I think they look at it like this

is their last shot. They're going to give it everything they've got, like coming back from down seven (Tuesday) night. I'm really proud of them for that."

The winner will play in next Tuesday's regionals, also at Sal Maglie Stadium.