21-4 overall.

15-2 in District play.

One of the most successful seasons in Latrobe Legion history is the regular season story for the 2011 Jethawks. However, the 2010 Jethawks had a similar story. In 2010, Latrobe was the #2 seed in the District 31 playoffs before losing in the first round to rival West Hempfield. The 2011 version of the Jethawks is primed to be different.

Latrobe is certainly carrying momentum into the playoffs. In the final week of the regular season, the Jethawks had 7 games in 8 days, and finished an impressive 6-1. Zach Bush, a player from last year’s team and now an assistant coach, feels momentum could be huge for Latrobe.

“21-4 is a pretty darn good record. We haven’t played our best baseball coming into the playoffs but going 6-1 in 7 games is a good stretch going into the playoffs,” Bush reiterated.

This stretch includes a thrilling 5-4 win over rival Unity in extra innings at The Flats. Now Latrobe must face the same opponent in the playoffs. Josh Shoemaker, one of, if not the most, consistent players on the team, delivered the walk-off single, a frozen rope to centerfield.

“I just jumped on the first one I liked and drove it. I feel like we’re playing pretty well heading into the playoffs,” Shoemaker reiterated.

Unity and Latrobe are no strangers. Many of the players played on the same high school team less than two months ago. But this will be different. These two teams are now competing against each other to move onto the District 31 semifinals.

The Jethawks have been carried by their pitching staff this year, led by dominant performances by Max Henry. Henry is 6-0 and has thrown two no hitters. Ryan Bisi and Matt Shoemaker have also been consistent starters in the rotation. Luke Zamiskie, who had not thrown an inning until the regular season finale due to arm problems, may be healthy for the playoff run. “It feels good. I should be good to go,” Zamiskie said. Latrobe also will look to a number of other pitchers to carry the team.

One of Latrobe’s four losses this season was against Unity. There is no doubt it will be an extremely competitive series. The only question remaining will be answered on the field. Will this year’s Jethawks write as historic of a story in the playoffs as they did in the regular season?

Latrobe manager Jason Bush will do whatever he can to make sure they do.

“It’s going to be interesting. I’ve got a lot of confidence in every guy on this 18 man roster.”

Game 1 is Sunday at Unity at 1 pm. Game 2 is Monday (July 4th) at Latrobe at 1 pm. Game 3 if necessary would be Tuesday at Latrobe at 5:30 pm.