

Junior Varsity Sports

Mount Tabor Edges Parkland With Four-Run Sixth Inning

By JEROME RICHARD
Chronicle Sports Editor

Mount Tabor finally won a close junior varsity baseball game.

The Spartans carried a 2-7 record into their game with visiting Parkland April 19, despite outscoring opponents by 11 runs. After the close losses, the Spartans experienced the other side of the ledger against Parkland, slipping past the Mustangs 5-3 with a four-run sixth inning highlighted by Chris Celestino's bases-loaded ground-rule double.

"We've outscored opponents by 11 runs this year, so you can tell we've fallen short many times," Mount Tabor coach Mike Kneisel said. "That is why this win is very satisfying and why the kids were so excited."

"We've had innings this year where we've got-

ten runners on base, but didn't capitalize. We haven't been getting the key hits, but today we did when we needed them."

That was especially true in the sixth inning when the Spartans erased a 3-1 deficit with their four-run outburst.

Parkland pitcher Brian Meadows opened the inning with a strike out before walking Trey Davis, Chris Inch and Grant Brittain to load the bases. Celestino's double drove in Davis and Inch for a 3-3 tie and Brittain scored on a fielder's choice for a 4-3 lead. Jett Tornatore's single off reliever Nathan Barron drove in Celestino with the final run.

Meadows limited the Spartans to four hits while striking out 10 batters and walking eight before running into trouble in the sixth.

Asked why he went with Meadows so long

after the southpaw struggled in the fourth and walked three consecutive batters to load the bases in the sixth, Parkland coach Dana Grieser said, "That was between me and the pitching coach. We made a mistake. We probably should have taken Meadows out because we had other pitchers who could have come in. Meadows has come through many times before for us and we thought he might come through again."

Parkland fell behind 1-0 in the fourth, but came back with a vengeance in the fifth, scoring three times against Spartan starting pitcher Chad Henley. The key blow was a towering two-run double to left centerfield by Chris Fulp.

"Henley had some control problems, but he was making good pitches even though he gave up some runs," Kneisel said. "He pitched a good game, but he had no run support."

Henley was relieved by Bradley Brown in the fifth. Brown shutout the Mustangs the rest of the way, but not before some anxious moments in the last inning. Brown walked two consecutive batters with two outs before Brian Lucas' pop up ended the game.

"I would be nervous with anyone on the mound in a situation like that, but with Bradley on the mound I'm less nervous because he is so loose and confident," Kneisel said with a chuckle, recalling how Brown bounced the ball on his forearm between pitches in the last inning. "His fight and determination get him through. He has the most fight of anyone on the team."

"This team is a bunch of fighters, as you saw today. At 2-7 coming into this game it would have been easy to get down, but these guys continued to play hard and fight. That says a lot about them."



The action of the Carver/East Forsyth junior varsity baseball game is reflected in a coach's sunglasses. East Forsyth won the April 18 game, 12-6.

Photos by Melissa Vaquera



Livengood's RBI Single Lifts Titans by RJR

Aaron Livengood's two-out single in the bottom of the seventh inning drove in the winning run as West Forsyth edged Reynolds 7-6 in junior varsity baseball April 18 in Clemmons.

Livengood's line drive down the third base line drove in Joe Burchette with the winning run as West Forsyth improved to 4-5 overall and 2-3 in the Central Piedmont 4-A Conference. Reynolds fell to 3-7-1 overall and 1-4-1 in the conference.

The Titans went to their last at-bat trailing 6-5 before pulling out the come-from-behind victory. Jeramie Burchette ignited the rally with a one-out walk

and stole second.

Joe Burchette hit a screamer to the shortstop, who overthrew the ball at first, allowing Jeramie Burchette to score the tying run and Joe Burchette to take second.

Britt Heath flied out to center field for the second out, setting the stage for Livengood's game-winning hit on a one-and-one pitch.

Marcus Smith laced a pair of singles and drove in three runs to pace the Titans' offensive attack. Daniel Corum and Jerjuan Thompson scored twice and Corum stole two bases and Thompson one. Andrew Leinbach's double and single paved

the way for Reynolds, while teammates Jake Guarantano, Antwon Rucker and Nick Bryant each scored a run.

David Brewer pitched five innings for West Forsyth, allowing six hits, six runs (two earned) and three walks, while striking out two batters.

Brandon Payne picked up the win in relief, striking out five of the eight batters he faced and walking one. Payne raised his record to 2-1 with the victory.

Richmond Hill relieved for the Demons in the second, surrendering one hit and three walks and striking out four batters in six innings.

Carver Walks to First Victory of the Year

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ized on eight Carver errors to grab a 17-6 lead.

Carver reverted back to its base-on-balls strategy beginning in the bottom of the fourth, using six walks and a single from Julie Marshall along with a Viking error to pull within 17-11. The Yellow Jackets had the strategy down to a science in the fifth when eight of its 11 batters drew walks to score seven times for a 18-17 lead.

Carver extended the margin to 24-17 with six runs in the bottom of the sixth. The hosts had four walks in the frame along with singles by Kim Montgomery and Jennifer Greene, the latter driving in a run.

North Forsyth rallied in the top of the seventh to tie the game at 24-24. Tara Fraley reached on an error and Shannon McMahon followed with a walk before Sandy Glasgow

rifled a shot to center that took a bad hop, allowing three runs home. A walk, error and fielder's choice plated a run and another walk loaded the bases with one out.

Mandy Evans singled in a run and with the bases loaded and two outs Heather Ivester lofted a ball to left field that was misplayed, allowing the tying run to score before Evans was cut down at the plate for the third out.

Carver pulled out the victory in its half of the seventh when Nicky Moss and Montgomery drew back-to-back walks to leadoff the inning. Ellen Collins' infield hit loaded the bases with no outs, bringing Greene, the clean-up hitter, to the plate. She walked to force in the winning run.

"I told Jennifer to take one strike and then, because she is good hitter, to go after the pitch if it looked good to her," Ferguson said of his last-inning

instructions to Greene. "When she got two balls she looked at me and I told her to take the next two pitches since we had the bases loaded.

"The young lady that was pitching hadn't put two straight strikes over the plate and with the pressure and with her probably getting tired, I think that wore her down and she walked Jennifer to force in the winning run."

Ferguson thought a 11-4 loss to Glenn the day before the Yellow Jackets' battle with North Forsyth had a positive impact on his team's mental state entering the fray with the Vikings.

"I knew we would come out ready to play after what happened yesterday," he said. "We were close to Glenn until the fifth inning when they broke the game open. We couldn't get the hits when we needed them. Today, we got the hits and took the walks."

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