

Chieftains Drop Opener

The Riverdale Varsity baseball team dropped their season opener on Friday Night to Wisconsin Heights by the score of 8-7. The Vikings have a very experienced team with 8-starters back from last year's sectional team and had a line-up of very good hitters. Coach Thompson "Heights has a very nice team with very good quickness and some very fine hitters. I thought over all we played decently for our first time out and we will improve greatly as the season progresses."

To open the 2016 season the first two Chieftains were retired but three straight walks would load the bases but unfortunately we would not score. In the bottom of the inning freshmen Michael Schaefer would take to the hill in his first varsity start. The first two WH hitters would reach on a hit batsman and a walk. Michael would then strike out the next hitter. However a base hit to right would plate a run and it was 1-0. Trying to limit the damage we would strike out the next hitter. Then with two outs we would K the next hitter but on the play the ball would get away from us and we would see two runs come in. Coach Thompson "Bad break there but things happen. I would be surprised to see that happen again this season." Michael would escape further damage by striking out the next WH hitter.

We would bounce right back in the top of the second. DH Drake Harris would lead off with a walk. One, out later Bradon Roen would single. Trevor Troxel would deliver an rbi single down the left field line and it was 3-1. After a fielder's choice ground out, Elijah Cannon would walk to load the bases. Trevor Johnson then stepped to the plate and launched a long double to left center clearing the bases and we had a 4-3 lead. Coach Thompson "Trevor is an excellent hitter and came through big in that situation." We would continue to threaten as Caleb Johnson and Casey Ekleberry would both be hit by pitches to reload the bases but we would not score. Coach Thompson "Nice inning we came right back after a rough bottom of the first." In the bottom of the second we set down WH 1-2-3.

In the third we extended our lead. With one out Bradon would be hit by a pitch and steal second. After Trevor T. reached on a fielder's choice, Ethan Haffner walked, and Elijah singled we had the bases loaded. Trevor J. again stepped to the plate and again cleared the bases with a line drive double to left center. Coach Thompson "Two huge hits by Trevor J. and we were looking good at that point."

With a 7-3 lead we headed to the bottom of the third and WH would bounce right back picking up a pair of runs to make it 7-5. Coach Thompson "Those are big innings after we score we need to shut down the opposition and keep the momentum."

In the fourth neither team would score. In the fifth we would again load the bases but not be able to score. That would make for the third time in the game that we would leave the bases loaded. That would come back to haunt us against this hard hitting WH roster. Elijah Cannon would come on in the fifth and shut down the Vikings.

In the sixth we would not threaten. WH would then rally in the sixth as they would score three times on 4-hits to take an 8-7 lead. We would get a runner on in the seventh on a Trevor Troxel single but would not be able to score and lost our opener 8-7. Coach Thompson "Again not a bad game they have a very nice team and played well and did not make any mistakes. We made a couple of mistakes but will learn from them and get better. I thought we learned a lot out there tonight as we had a number of players

making their first varsity appearance and many others in different positions from last year. This is going to be a very exciting season for us once everyone gets settled in!"

Box Score: AB R HITS RBI

Troxel 5-2-3-1 Haffner 2-2-0-0 Cannon 1-2-1-0 T. Johnson 3-0-2-6 C. Johnson 2-0-0-0 Ekleberry 2-0-0-0
Harris 2-1-0-0 Sperry 1-0-0-0 Hougan 4-0-0-0 Roen 3-0-1-0 Haile 0-0-0-0 Luck 0-0-0-0 Schaefer 0-0-0-0
Fox 0-0-0-0

Pitching	IP	HITS	RUNS	ER	BB	K
Schaefer	4	4	5	3	2	6
Cannon	2	4	3	3	0	2