

Chieftains Stop Ithaca 9-3

For the third time this season the varsity baseball team has knocked off one of the State's number one ranked teams, this time it was the Ithaca Bulldogs. The Chieftains had previously defeated Fennimore when they were ranked #1 in Division IV, we then defeated #1 Aquinas in Division III last week, and now have defeated the new #1 in Division IV the Ithaca Bulldogs. Coach Thompson "Not many teams in baseball can say they have done that! What a great year so far by this group, they just keep coming at you and it is always someone different giving the team a boost."

In front of a big and energetic crowd the Chieftains and Bulldogs squared off for local bragging rights in a game that would be full of drama. In the first both teams would see their first two hitters reach but both teams would escape unharmed. Pitcher Brett Hach would get a big double play ball turned by the Roen boys at short and second to get out of the first. A big pick by first baseman Zach Swaziek was key to the double play.

In the second we got on the board. Tanner walked, Tyrrel reached on an error and we had runners on second and third. One out later Bradon walked to load the bases. Jared then stepped to the plate and bounced a single to left knocking in Tanner and courtesy runner Charlie Luck, the score was 2-0. In the bottom of the third Ithaca would parlay three hits and two walks to score three runs to take the lead. Trevor Troxel would come on in relief to get us out of the inning.

In the top of the third we loaded the bases with two outs as Tanner singled and stole second. Tyrrel and Max both walked, but we did not score. We would quickly set down the Bulldogs in the third.

In the fourth neither team would score as we would get a nice Trevor Troxel to Brett Hach to Zach Swaziek double play to end the inning. Coach Thompson "Trevor is an excellent fielding pitcher!"

In the fifth we would even the score. With one out Trevor T. would rocket a line shot over the left field fence for a HR, and were tied at three. Coach Thompson "Huge hit and that ramped up the intensity level of the game!" In the bottom of the inning a strike out and two ground outs to slick fielding Brett Hach at short and we were off to the sixth.

After we went quietly the drama would increase in the bottom of the inning. A single and tricky play on a nice bunt would result in Ithaca having runners on second and third with no outs. That is when Trevor T. took over the game. First striking out the next hitter on a wicked curve on which Tyrrel made a great block and throw to get the batter at first. After an intentional walk Trevor would then strike out the next two hitters and we were out of the jam. Coach Thompson "What a clutch performance by Trevor that was the turning point of the ball game!"

In the seventh we rode that momentum to victory. Left fielder Trevor Johnson would bring the crowd to its feet when he blasted a HR over the left field fence and we had a 4-3 lead. Coach Thompson "That is what Trevor can do, he is an excellent hitter who came thru in the clutch!" Ethan Haffner walked then Trevor T. blistered a shot down the left field line to put runners on second and third. Tanner walked to load the bases. Two outs later, after a fine play by Ithaca, we would reload the bases when Max coaxed a walk. Pinch runner Casey Ekleberry scored when Bradon walked. After Jared was walked, to force in another run, we led 6-3. Brett then delivered the crushing blow as he tripled down the right field line clearing the bases and giving us a 9-3 lead. Coach Thompson "Great hustle by Jared on that hit and that is what we expect Brett to do, he has come through all season!"

We quickly sat down Ithaca in the seventh and had another big win. Coach Thompson "A hard fought game between two really good teams. Ithaca has an excellent team and will be very tough in the tournament again."

But what more can you say about this team from Riverdale, we have played a very tough schedule and we usually respond in the close games, this is a great group that usually plays its best against the best! We are very proud of them as we head down the home stretch!"

The Chieftains are now 19-4 on the season.

Box Score. AB. Hits. Runs. RBI

J. Roen 3-1-2-3 Hach 4-0-1-3 Johnson 5-1-1-1 Cannon 2-0-0-0 Haffner 1-0-0-0 Troxel 4-1-2-1 Ekleberry 0-1-0-0 Williamson 1-2-1-0 Anderson 3-0-0-0 Luck 0-1-0-0 Hougan 2-1-0-0 B. Roen 2-1-0-1 Swaziek 0-0-0-0

Pitching Stats. IP. Hits. R. ER. BB. K

Hach 1.1. 3. 3. 3. 3. 0

Troxel. 5. 2. 3. 0. 0. 1. 6