

Chieftains Top the Ithaca Bulldogs 7-1

On a great evening for baseball it would be the state's third ranked Chieftains topping the state's second ranked Bulldogs by the score of 7-1 on Friday evening. The Chieftains received a great pitching performance from junior righty Ethan Haffner, who scattered 4- hits and did not allow an earned run, to pick up the complete game victory. Coach Thompson "Great job by Ethan against a real tough team. It was only his second start of the season, he was very sharp out there."

In the much anticipated match up the Bulldogs would strike quickly, taking advantage of two hits and two errors to pick up a run. The Chieftains escaped greater damage on a line drive double play to shortstop Trevor Troxel. We bounced right back in the bottom of the first. With one out Trevor T. walked and stole second. With two outs, Caleb Johnson stepped to the plate and blasted a long RBI double to right center to tie the game. Moments later the red hot Elijah Cannon blistered a single to center making the score 2-1 after the first inning. Coach Thompson "Those were two big runs. I think it settled everyone down after a hectic first inning."

Neither team would score in the next two innings as both teams turned in excellent defensive plays. Riverdale tacked on a run in the fourth. Elijah led off and was hit by a pitch. Charlie Luck came in to run for Elijah. Michael Schaefer dropped down a nice sac bunt. Cody Sperry then stepped to the plate and smacked an RBI single to center field and it was 3-1. Coach Thompson "We did all of the little things right tonight."

The Chieftains broke the game open with four runs in the fifth. Bradon Roen would get us going as his smash to third base was misplayed. Trevor T. reached on a walk. Trevor Johnson would follow with a solid single to left driving home pinch runner Brady Fox to make it 4-1. Caleb stayed hot as he creamed an RBI single to right center. Moments later the now sizzling Elijah Cannon crushed a line shot to left to score another giving Riverdale a 6-1 advantage. Coach Thompson "What a night for Elijah, 4- hits vs SW and follows up with two more hits against Ithaca." Michael's fielder's choice RBI ground out rounded out the scoring at 7-1.

Meanwhile Ethan kept Ithaca at bay as he was able to mix it up just enough to keep a very talented Bulldog team off balance. We also made a number of very nice defensive plays to keep any threats under control. The final 7-1.

Coach Thompson "We played very well again tonight. We hit the ball extremely well and played with a very high level of intensity and focus. The guys have come a long way since the beginning of the year. Ithaca has an excellent team and are very difficult to beat. Tonight we had things go our way and were fortunate enough to win. Now we need to turn our attention to two huge conference games coming up that will determine the conference championship. "

The Chieftains are now 10-2 in conference and 17-6 overall.

Box Score. AB. Runs. Hits. RBI

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

Pitching Stats.	IP.	Hits.	Runs.	ER.	BB.	K
Haffner.	7.	4.	1.	0.	0.	2