

## Baseball

# Clarence needs extra innings to defeat North

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Clarence bested Williamsville North in extra innings last year to win the Erie County Interscholastic Conference Division I regular season baseball title. Fast forward a year, and the Red Devils have handed the Spartans another loss in extra innings, a 5-4 defeat in eight innings on Saturday.

A single from Red Devil Richard Onorato went off the heel of the glove of North relief pitcher Zach Boron, and Justin Urschel raced home from second for the winning run in the bottom of the eighth.

Trailing 4-0, the Spartans rallied for four runs in the top of the fifth, courtesy of a Taylor Gahagen triple that scored Jared Fabian and a three-run home run by Max Zimmerman. It was Zimmerman's third home run in four games.

Zimmerman, 3 for 4, almost had another home run in the game, but it was ruled a double.

Despite the loss, North coach Jerry Scarcella thought the game brought his team together.

"We had our first test, and we battled back," said Scarcella. "It looks good for the rest of the season."

As a team, North had eight hits, including singles from Austin Benschadle, John Ticco, Pat Dwyer and Nick Fronczak but left 10 runners on base.

Ben Zwierchowski scattered six hits and struck out four over seven innings.

"He pitched good enough to win," said Scarcella. "We just couldn't score at the end."

Clarence's Ed Kohout got the win in relief of Kris Gentzke.

A day earlier, North bested Sweet Home, 5-3. Alex Calderon was the player of the game, strik-

ing out five and allowing four hits on the mound and hitting one for three with two RBIs at the plate. In the sixth, Calderon doubled home Ticco and Fabian and scored on an error.

Dwyer scored on a fielder's choice in the first, and a Benschadle fly ball to the outfield scored Eric Dahlman in the third.

Ryan Maxwell scored two of Sweet Home's three runs. He scored in the fourth from a Travis Denman single and in the sixth from a Corey Sykes single. Denman also scored in the sixth on an Aaron Klein fielder's choice.

On the mound, Denman allowed only four hits and struck out two but walked seven batters. Three of North's five runners who scored reached base on walks.

Boron picked up the save for North.

Brian Pappagallo and Chris Hammer each doubled. Alex Esposito singled.

North (2-2, 2-1) continues a four-game home stand at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 25 against Lancaster and at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, April 26 versus Jamestown. Games with Orchard Park on Monday, April 23 and West Seneca West on Tuesday, April 24 were played before The Bee went to press.

North also plays at 7 p.m. Friday, April 27 against St. Mary's of Lancaster in the Robert E. Rich High School Baseball Classic at Dunn Tire Park. The all-wooden bat tournament pits ECIC teams against teams from the Monsignor Martin Association. North has competed in the event the last two years, beating St. Joe's and losing to Canisius.

Scarcella feels the event is a great way to bring the leagues together.



Sweet Home's Travis Denman allowed four hits and struck out two North batters.

Photo by John Rusac

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Williamsville North's Pat Dwyer is safe at first base during the Spartans' 5-3 road win at Sweet Home on Friday, April 20.

Photo by John Rusac

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"It's neat. It gives us an opportunity to see teams that we usually wouldn't see," said Scarcella.

Sweet Home (0-3) had games last week with West Seneca West, Orchard Park, and Jamestown postponed. This week, it played road games at Lancaster on Monday, April 23 and at Clarence on

Tuesday, April 24, but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. The team travels to Frontier at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25 and hosts West Seneca West at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 26.

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## East girls lax moves into first place tie in ECIC III

Williamsville East easily moved into a first place tie with Amherst in ECIC Division III after defeating Williamsville South, 15-4, on Thursday, April 19.

East co-coach Kristen Zbrzezny said her team came out rusty (was the first time many players picked up sticks over past two weeks) and after the first eight to ten minutes, the score was tied at 3-3. Zbrzezny called a timeout to regroup and her team responded, scoring 12 unanswered goals.

"The younger and newer players saw significant playing time," said Zbrzezny.

Emily Williams scored four times and assisted on another for the Lady Flames.

Emily Dehlinger also tallied

four goals and added an assist. Lauren Latona and Aleece Burgio each scored twice. Sarah DiPofi had six points (goal, five assists). Erica Sizemore and Erika Flashner each had a goal and assist. Lauren Hall tallied her first two assists of the season. Alyssa Drozynski added an assist.

Goalie Courtney Vitello had a 73 save percentage against South, stopping 8 of 11 shots. Back-up Ashley Slisz stopped two of three shots.

Liz Gengo kept hope alive for South in the second half with great play and excellent control which led to two goals. Caitlin Kelly and Gina Rutecki each scored a goal. Nita Bhatia played strong defense and was named

South's MVP.

East continued its winning ways on Saturday, April 21, defeating Niagara-Wheatfield, 14-7. Niagara-Wheatfield scored first but East came back and was ahead, 6-4, by halftime.

Vitello had an amazing game, stopping 12 of 19 shots for a .63 save percentage. Scoring for East were Williams (five goals), Brittany Hargis (four goals, two assists), Latona (two goals, assist), Dehlinger (goal, assist), DiPofi

(goal, assist), Alina Swierski (goal), Drozynski (assist), Lauren LaPoint (assist), Hall (assist), and Flashner (two assists).

For the season, Williams already has 20 goals. Other season totals are Hargis (14 goals, five assists), Dehlinger (six goals, six assists), DiPofi (six goals, six assists), Latona (five goals, six assists), Swierski (four goals, two assists), Drozynski (three assists), LaPoint (assist), Hall (three assists), Flashner (three

goals, three assists), Burgio (four goals, two assists), and Sizemore (goal, assist).

East, 3-0 in league play, took a four-game win streak into its road game at East Aurora on Tuesday, April 24 but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press.

East's game against Amherst was postponed due to a lack of officials and has been rescheduled for 7 p.m., Monday, April 30 at Amherst.

## East baseball drops two

Williamsville East fell to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in ECIC Division II after dropping games to Lake Shore, 13-12, on Friday, April 20 and against Orchard Park, 12-4, on Saturday, April 21.

Trailing Lake Shore 10-9 after six innings, the Flames used hits by Chris Schiumo, Jordan Karnath and Nick Kanutsu, along with three walks and a sacrifice, to gain a 12-10 lead.

The pesky Eagles didn't quit and scored three times on walks, and a hit. Lake Shore's winning run came with two outs when Kanutsu, in relief, hit cleanup batter Bill Peterson on the first pitch, forcing home Mike Sullivan from third.

Orchard Park plated six runs in the first inning and another six in the fifth en route to defeating East. East pitchers yielded 14 hits, issued two walks, and hit three OP hitters.

The Flames banged out ten hits in a losing cause with Zach Miller chipping in with three hits. Kanutsu and Gary Styn had two hits apiece.

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