

East baseball loses key league game

The Williamsville East baseball team lost a critical game to Hamburg, 6-2, on Friday at East.

The loss put the Flames (3-3, 2-2) a game behind front-runners Hamburg and Iroquois in ECIC Division II.

East scored first when Gary Styn tripled and Josh DiMarco grounded out to second base in the first inning.

DiMarco was cruising along on the mound with nine strikeouts and only two hits when his lower back tightened up in the fifth. The Bulldogs took advantage with three hits and two hit batters and four runs.

Hamburg added one more run in the sixth and another in the seventh off three East pitchers.

The Flames made it 6-2 in the seventh when Dave Mernan tripled in Dan Tyx. Mernan also doubled to pace the Flames' five-hit attack.

Blake McLimans pitched a complete game for Hamburg, spacing five hits and striking out 13.

East went 3-1 in its other games last week. The Flames defeated Sweet Home, 14-10, on Monday, April 21, at Sweet Home; West Seneca East, 5-1, in eight innings on Tuesday, April 22, at West Seneca East; and West Seneca West, 8-7, last Thursday at East. East fell to Lake Shore, 9-3, last Wednesday at Lake Shore.

The Sweet Home victory was East's ECIC II opener. The Flames outhit the Panthers, 14-10, and saw their lead evaporate as Sweet Home plated seven runs over the last three innings. The only time East trailed was 2-1 after the first inning.

DiMarco worked the first four innings,



Williamsville East's Josh DiMarco pitches to Hamburg's Ryan Browner during the Flames' 6-2 loss

last Friday at East.

Photo by Amy Krakowiak
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giving up one hit and striking out three. DiMarco left the game with a 10-2 lead.

Chris Schiumo's three singles and Andrew Steel's two singles and a double paced East's 13-hit attack. Tyx also chipped in with two hits. Mike Collura added a pinch-hit triple.

Styn, Ari Goldberg, Tony Tirone, DiMarco and Nick Weigel combined for a five-hitter, striking out nine against West Seneca East.

The Flames gave up an unearned run in

the second and trailed the Trojans, 1-0, going into the top of the seventh. East tied the score on a bases-loaded sacrifice fly by Tyx to tie the score.

West Seneca East threatened in the bottom half and had the winning run at second, but DiMarco put out the fire with a strikeout, sending the game to extra innings.

Styn led off the eighth on a hit by pitch and stole second. DiMarco moved Styn to third on an infield single. Sean Ricketts, pinch running for DiMarco, stole second

and Schiumo was intentionally passed to load the bases. Mernan then smacked a hard-hit ball between third and short that was booted, scoring Styn to make it 2-1. Weigel followed with another hard-hit ball to the shortstop, scoring Ricketts. Steel then squeezed home Schiumo for another run. Justin Birzon was intentionally passed and Tyx drove in the fourth run of the inning.

Weigel struck out the side in the eighth to pick up the victory.

East never led West Seneca West but plated three runs in the bottom of the seventh.

Schiumo (.438) led off the seventh with a single. He raced to third on Weigel's (.438) hit to right field. Weigel then stole second and Steel was intentionally passed to load the bases. Tyx (.333) then delivered a two-run double to knot the score at 7-7.

Mernan pinch hit and was intentionally walked to load the bases again. East was unsuccessful on a squeeze attempt. With two outs, Styn lofted a bloop single to left to drive in Steel with the winning run.

Lake Shore outhit East, 9-6. East stranded 12 runners and trailed the entire game.

Jason Radwan and Kirby Driscoll paced the Eagles' attack with two hits each. Radwan hit a monster home run at approximately 400 feet in the sixth and had a single, scoring twice. Driscoll singled and tripled.

Weigel (.385) led East with a pair of singles.

East hosts Iroquois at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday and West Seneca East at 4:45 p.m. on Friday.

Sweet Home continues its turnaround

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Game by game, the Sweet Home baseball team continues to learn from its mistakes.

The Panthers dropped a 14-10 decision to Williamsville East at home on Monday, April 21 but responded with road victories at Iroquois, 14-8, and Williamsville South, 3-1, on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. Sweet Home closed out the week with an 8-4 loss to Lake Shore last Friday at home and a 4-3 win over Section III's Baldwinsville on Saturday at Sweet Home.

The Panthers' week started off rough. Sweet Home pitchers walked 10 East batters as the Flames built a 10-2 lead going into the bottom of the fifth inning.

"Pitching sets the tone and the bottom line was we walked six batters in the first three innings," said Sweet Home coach Derek Zgoda. "It's tough for the defense to get in rhythm when pitchers are walking batters."

The Panthers tallied two runs in the first and fifth inning and added five in the seventh on three walks, two East errors, a sacrifice fly and one hit. Cody Stonish, Brian Barnas and Dan Ministero

each walked and scored. Aaron Klein hit a hard ball to center field, reached on an error and scored on a sacrifice fly by Dave Wantuck. Alex Frase then reached on an error and scored on a single by Ryan Gutt.

In the first, Casey Kacz walked and scored on a Travis Denman sacrifice fly and Brian Pappagallo walked and scored on a John Graziano single.

In the fifth, Gutt reached on an error, Kacz was hit by a pitch and Barnas cracked a two-RBI single. In the sixth, Wantuck singled and scored on a Gutt RBI single.

East outhit Sweet Home, 12-5.

Gutt went 2 for 4 with two RBIs.

The Sweet Home-Iroquois game went back and forth until Sweet Home scored four times in the top of the fifth to break a 5-5 tie, highlighted by a two-RBI triple by Klein. Klein later scored on an Iroquois throwing error.

The Panthers added two more runs in the sixth, courtesy of a Graziano two-RBI double, and another two in the seventh when Philip Stewart and Kacz each scored on an error.

Stewart finished 3 for 4 with two runs scored and four RBIs, including a two-run home run in the fourth that gave Sweet Home

a 5-4 lead and a two-RBI single in the second that plated Denman and Graziano. It was Stewart's first varsity career home run.

Other hitting stars for the Panthers were Kacz (two singles), Stonish (single, triple), Denman (two singles), Graziano (single, double) and Klein (double, triple).

"We had a nice practice last Tuesday and the kids came out with more enthusiasm early on," said Zgoda. "It was a good lesson learned from the East game."

Stonish settled down after the first three innings to pick up the win on the mound. Stonish gave up eight hits over six innings, struck out five and walked one.

"To his credit, he pitched out of a lot of jams," said Zgoda.

Six different Panthers recorded a hit and overcame some great pitching by Zach Murray to beat South. Murray threw a six-hitter, allowed three runs, one unearned run, struck out six and walked three. Sweet Home had multiple runners in scoring position several times, including the bases loaded in the sixth but Murray was able to get of jams.

"He gave us a great chance to win," said South coach Dave Delisanti.

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South experiencing growing pains

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

It tends to take high school baseball teams a little while to reach its stride at the plate but with Williamsville South, it's taking longer.

The Billies only return five players from last year's team so coach Dave Delisanti knew there would be a learning curve at the plate. However, through five games, he's hasn't even gotten a glimpse.

"It takes a while to get your bats going and with a younger team, it's taken a while longer," said Delisanti. "We haven't strung more than two runs in an inning in any game. The most guys we have sent to the plate in an inning has been six."

Delisanti said his team has to more aggressive at the plate.

"They're swinging at bad pitches and it's been putting more pressure on our pitching and defense," said Delisanti. "It's all a confidence factor. Once the guys realize that they belong here (at the varsity level), their confidence will go up and we'll get better at the plate."

South scored six times in an 11-6 loss at Iroquois on Monday, April 21 and five runs in a 9-5 home defeat to West Seneca East on Wednesday, April 23, but could not string any hits together in either game.

South trailed the entire game as Iroquois built a 5-0 lead after the fifth and a 7-3 advantage in the fifth.

JV call-up Brandon Mong hit two doubles and scored a run. Andy Esposito went 1 for 2 with a walk and scored two runs. Walkowski and LiSacchi each doubled and scored two and one runs, respectively.

Ryan Miller only gave up four earned runs and struck out three in the loss.

Delisanti said Iroquois third baseman Tom Kufel made 12 of the game's first 15 outs.

South's defense failed them against West Seneca East. With the Billies trailing, 3-2, in the fourth, South committed three errors which led to six unearned runs and increased the Trojans' lead from 3-2 to 9-2.

The Billies finished the game with four errors. They also left eight runners on base, six of which were in scoring position.

"We need to make routine plays," said

Delisanti. "If we did that, they would not have scored any runs."

Mong went 2 for 4 with a double, home run and three RBIs. LiSacchi hit 3 for 4 with three singles, two stolen bases and one run scored. Zach Murray hit 2 for 4 with a run scored. Matt Minervini got the loss on the mound.

South also lost to Sweet Home, 3-1 (see Sweet Home story).

The Billies (1-4, 0-4) returned to action against Maryvale on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. They play at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday at Lake Shore and at Hamburg on Friday. In between they host Williamsville East at 4:30 p.m. in a rescheduled game from Monday.

Delisanti said his team needs to clean up its mistakes. "I expect us to make mistakes but just as long as we don't make the same mistakes twice, we'll be fine," he said. "Every time they walk off the field, I hope they're learning something they can improve on for the next game."

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