

Veterans Memorial Field

The Box Score

The Tomcat's prolific offense showed out today as they pounded Southampton by a score of 11-0. The mercy-rule shortened game ended in just seven innings and took less than two hours. Jeffrey Taylor was able to match his offense's success on the pitcher's mound in this one to help lead the Tomcats to their fourth consecutive victory. Riverhead maintained their lead atop the standings as they improved to 21-8-1. With the loss, Southampton dropped to 11-20-1.

More Than the Box Score

Much of Riverhead's success in this one came right from the top with leadoff man Robert Gallagher. Gallagher was equally aggressive at the plate and on the base paths. He swung at the first pitch in three of his four at bats on the day. Gallagher also started the game with a first pitch single the opposite way into left field. He showed a nice inside-out swing and proved throughout the afternoon that he would be a tough out. Gallagher's speed, however, is the most important facet of his game. After his leadoff single, he would go on to steal second and third base. Those were the first of five stolen bases for Gallagher in the game. It is not that he was taking advantage of a weak catcher, he was just outsmarting the pitchers. He did an

excellent job of figuring out their tendencies in order to know when to run. The speedster had two amazing jumps that he was able to get into second base standing up. Simply put, Gallagher is a run creator and an excellent leadoff man for any lineup. The UMass-Lowell product is just the beginning to an extraordinarily deep Tomcat lineup.

If You Can Hit, You'll Play

Andrew Hernandez was the Tomcat designated hitter and he was in the lineup to do just that, hit. Hernandez did not mess around at the plate as, like Gallagher, he swung at the first strike he saw in each at bat. He followed up a screaming sacrifice fly in his first at bat with an even harder hit line drive for a double to the gap in his second. Hernandez gets his foot down in plenty of time in order to explode on the baseball. He maintains solid balance throughout his swing, which allows him to extend properly. All of this means that the ball absolutely jumps off of Hernandez's bat. The UPenn standout later added a single to his double and sacrifice fly. Hernandez is listed as a catcher, so this type of pop from that position is more than any coach could ask for.

Taking Solace in a Rough Game

The theme of today was aggressive hitters and Breaker shortstop Mason Marquez was another one. Marquez is a true timing hitter as he brings a giant leg kick with him to the batter's box. The way to be successful with one of those is to make sure you get that leg down

in time, and Marquez had no problem with that. In his first at bat he hit a hard line drive the opposite way to deep right field for an out. Marquez would not have any more tough luck the rest of the game though, as he laced two doubles to the left center field gap. His whole swing was so smooth that it looked like he was just dropping the bat head onto the baseball. He generated a tremendous amount of power with that initial load, so that he just needed to trust his eyes to do the rest. The UC Santa Barbara rising sophomore will definitely be able to help out the Breakers for the rest of this season going forward.

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