

Southampton HS

The Box Score

Southampton knocked off Shelter Island late, in walk-off fashion, by a score of 5-4. The Bucks could not hold a 4-3 ninth inning lead as the top of the Breaker lineup was able to rally for two runs with two outs. Michael Ferrara had the game tying single and then went on to score the winning run on a Robbie Holmes double. The win pushed Southampton to 14-21-1, while Shelter Island's record evened up at 18-18.

More Than the Box Score

Southampton first baseman Michael Ferrara made solid adjustments throughout the afternoon. In his first at bat, Ferrara just missed a hanging breaking ball that he skied in the air to center field. Later in the game, he got the same pitch and hit an absolute seed into left field for a single that loaded the bases. Ferrara has his hands ready to hit early and does a good job of keeping his head on the baseball throughout his swing. He also excels at hitting the low strike. It seems like he has bought in to that launch angle approach that so many major leaguers have adopted today. The UNCG product was also very aggressive with men on base. His single to load the bases was on the second pitch of the at bat and his only other one with runners on was in the ninth. This time Ferrara went after the first pitch he saw and laced it into the left

center field gap to tie the game. Ferrara finished 2-5 with maybe the biggest run scored and RBI of the game.

Wasted Effort

Shelter Island starter Joseph O'Connell did more than enough in this one to get his team the win. He continuously fell behind in counts in the early inning, but he battled through those until he found his rhythm. Once O'Connell started featuring his slow curve ball more often it became a nightmare for the Southampton hitters. His ability to follow up a slow curve with a well-located fastball is what made him successful in this one. However, O'Connell did only have five strikeouts, so he was able to get outs in different ways. Towards the end of his outing he was really keeping the ball down and getting hitters to roll over ground balls. Along with his two primary pitches, the Harvard righthander featured a tight slider that broke just off the outside corner to right handed hitters. O'Connell's delivery is unconventional to say the least, but those three pitches were enough to keep the Breakers off-balance for seven innings.

Athlete

Bryce Daniel had to be the easy choice for best athlete on the field. This was very clear in the top of the first inning when Daniel nearly beat out a ground ball right back to the pitcher. In his later at bats he was able to showcase his skills at the plate as well. Daniel put a good swing on a breaking ball in his next at bat. With two outs and a runner on second, he was able

to inside-out a ball to right field for a single. Unfortunately, he was robbed of an RBI as the runner was thrown out at the plate. Daniel was also able to square up a fastball and hit it back where it came from in another at bat. He has a real short, quick swing that prevents him from swinging and missing often. He also had a good idea of what he was doing at the plate. It looked like Daniel was reading and adjusting to off-speed pitches very well. Obviously, his compact swing has something to do with that. Daniel's inside-out approach paired with his speed and athleticism will make him an important piece in Dartmouth's lineup next spring.

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