

Bellport HS

### **The Box Score**

A pair of teams going in opposite directions squared off in this one. Westhampton defeated Long Island by a score of 6-2 and recorded their 4<sup>th</sup> straight win. The Road Warriors lost their 4<sup>th</sup> straight and dropped to 8-14-1. The Aviators came alive late as they scored five runs in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. Also, seven of the nine starters came away with at least one hit. Westhampton extended their lead on the league and improved to 17-6-1.

### **More Than the Box Score**

Aviator shortstop Bailey Peterson had two big plays in a row that changed the face of this game. With runners on the corners in the bottom half of the 6<sup>th</sup>, Peterson ranged up the middle in order to start an inning-ending double play, keeping the game scoreless. Peterson then came up to bat with one out in the next inning. After falling behind 0-2, he was able to work the count full by laying off some close pitches. He finally got one he could handle and sent a rope over the third baseman's head for a single. Peterson would later score the first run of the game. Ultimately, his base hit started the five-run rally for Westhampton. The Michigan State sophomore looked to be a tough out at the plate. He was very selective and did not chase outside the zone. Peterson finish 2-4, but he also hit a ball to the wall in dead center, which

would have been a home run in a lot of parks. He does a great job of getting push from his back legs even though he does not step at all with his lead foot. Peterson has a level swing that stays in the zone for a long time, which allows him to hit from line to line.

### **Free and Easy**

In a game that featured nine pitchers, Road Warriors starter Chris Mott was the best one. The right hander worked six shutout innings allowing just one hit against the league's hottest offense. The Aviators had put up forty-five runs in their previous three games but could not get anything off of Mott. The NYIT arm did have good deception in his delivery, as the ball looked like it disappeared when he put his hand behind his back, but the most compelling thing about Mott was his composure. He noticeably took a big deep breath before throwing every pitch. This is what slowed down his body and mind and allowed him to be on point mechanically and delivery quality strikes. He also had the right tools in the toolbox, which helps. Mott featured two types of sliders that he used more and more as the game wore on. He was not afraid to throw a quick, hard biting slider that he started at the front hip of righties in any count. He also used a bit of a slower breaking ball as a change of pace. Mott only allowed three total baserunners through six innings and his ability to throw multiple pitches for strikes is why. He threw strikes 66% of the time and most of the balls he threw were either just off the corner or just a bit down. He rarely fell behind, but when he did he would go right after the hitter and force their hand. Chris Mott was able to keep his team in the game and make the best team in the league look silly at times.

## Attack Mode

Road Warrior third baseman Jacob McCarthy is a player that looked like he is just missing a little piece. Defensively, McCarthy's footwork was excellent, and he did a good job getting himself in the right position to throw. Offensively, he got his foot down in time and showed a level swing, while keeping his head on the ball. However, he simple lacks aggressiveness. Although his defensive set up is keen, he tended to sit back on ground balls. This happened in that key seventh inning when he sat back on a ball, just to see it go into left field. In the batter's box, McCarthy looked indecisive on every pitch. He was finally able to put it together and ground a single up the middle. In both instances McCarthy just needs to trust his hands. In that seventh inning, Long Island eventually brought the infield in and a tough two-hopper was hit right at him. Obviously, this one he did not have time to charge, but he made a difficult play look effortless. A little bit of aggressiveness would go a long way for Molloy product, Jacob McCarthy.