

Veterans Memorial Field

The Box Score

Riverhead pounded Sag Harbor by a score of 11-1. The Tomcats scored their final two runs in the 8th inning, enacting the mercy rule. In four of the eight innings, the Tomcats scored at least two runs. They were led by the left arm of Jeffrey Taylor who allowed just one unearned run over six innings. Offensively, it was a true team effort as each starter tallied at least one hit. The win for Riverhead closes the gap between these two teams as they improved to 7-4, while Sag Harbor dropped to 8-3.

More Than the Box Score

Starting pitcher Jeffrey Taylor was in control throughout in this one. Taylor had a very distinct idea of what he wanted to do on the mound and was able to execute all afternoon. The lefty excelled at keeping the ball down. Taylor, at times, would show inside to lefties and up to righties, but it was generally just to open up that outside corner again. His ability to live on the edges, along with the late bite on his slider, caused seven Whalers to go down on strikes. The Penn State junior to be would stand almost straight up when he rose his front leg, leaving his plant leg with very little flex. However, his knee would bend and push late causing his fastball to

have late life. Taylor's pinpoint accuracy, late breaking slider and money fastball leaves no surprise as to why he pitches in the Big Ten.

One Man Show

Right fielder River Town provided most of the offense on the Sag Harbor side. Town had four of his teams five hits as he went 4-4 with four singles. He knows what type of hitter he is and was adept at staying true and up the middle with his swing. Town had steady hands that he kept close to the hitting zone throughout his approach. He looked like a line drive hitter that probably won't hit a lot of balls over the fence, but he equally won't swing and miss. The lefty also displayed a quiet load with simple movement on his backside in order to shift his weight with ease. Town profiles as a stereotypically, tough out type of leadoff hitter for Louisiana State at Eunice for years to come.

Web Gems

In a game that featured twelve runs, there could even been even more if it was not for two defensive wizards. Both players batted ninth for their respective teams, but they deserve as much love as any other players for their efforts with their gloves. Tomcats' Brian Craven had special reaction time at second base. With a leadoff runner on in the fourth inning, Craven, playing closer to the second base bag, ranged for a ball to his left into shallow right field. He had to go to his knees to smother what looked like a seeing-eye single and throw from that

position to nab the runner just in time. The play took away a potential rally for Sag Harbor as the game was still in reach at just 3-1. Later in the game, Craven showed off his aggressiveness on a slow roller just to the second base side of the mound. While some players may have sat back and let the ball play them, Craven charged hard fielding with his glove hand then transferred and threw the ball in one motion.

Craven helped out his team tremendously at second, although it was Whaler left field John Lopez who stole the show. Lopez came diving in to track down a sinking liner in the fourth and then went flying into the left field wall to come up with a towering fly ball an inning later. On both plays Lopez had an incredible first step and ball tracking skills. It didn't matter if he was going in or back, Lopez never took his eye off the wall, not even when he went crashing into the fence. His fearlessness and willingness to go all out is an invaluable asset for any team.

Both players play Division 1 baseball as Craven and Lopez play at Richmond and St. Mary's respectively.