

Southampton HS

**The Box Score**

The Whalers blanked the Breakers by a score of 2-0 in this one. Both pitchers worked deep into the game and there was only one extra base hit from both teams combined. Also, no player recorded a multi-hit game. Sag Harbor scored both of its runs in the top of the eighth inning thanks to back-to-back singles and an error. The loss dropped Southampton to 5-14-1, while the win kept Sag Harbor over .500 at 11-9 about halfway through the season.

**More Than the Box Score**

Whalers shortstop Brock Franks was the player who recorded that lone extra base hit, a double to the gap in right center. He did an excellent job at keeping his front shoulder in against a lefty that had been tough for the Whaler hitters all afternoon. Franks laced a double off the wall in right center, missing a home run by inches. Bobby Valentine even mentioned that Franks looked like a young Robin Yount as he was rounding first base. All he needs to improve on is sitting on his back leg a bit longer when an off-speed pitch comes his way. He tended to lose connection with breaking balls causing him to roll over. In addition to his incredible bat speed, Franks also carries a rocket of an arm in his arsenal. He has a low, sidearm throwing form, but he still keeps his shoulders square and the ball acts as if it's being fired out of a cannon. As of

now, Franks is attending a junior college, Northwest Florida State College, but could come to be a diamond in the rough when he transfers to a larger school.

### **Dueling Aces**

Each starter worked through seven innings in this one keeping the game scoreless. Right hander Nick Murray was the winning pitcher, finishing with seven strikeouts through those seven scoreless innings. Murray is listed at 6'6" but did not pitch how his height might dictate. He did not look like he was really getting his back leg into his pitches, however, he was plenty capable of getting hitters out. Murray loved to go to his slider in all counts. He could backdoor it to lefties, as well as buckle righties' knees. He also through a curveball with a bite more depth and break than the slider. Towards the end of his outing, he was featuring one of those two breaking balls much more often than his fastball. Even though he doesn't look like he was trying very hard, Murray had the Breaker hitters baffled throughout the afternoon.

Lefty Cole Humes took the loss for Southampton. He worked efficiently as he only needed 74 pitches for 7.1 innings of work. Humes did it much differently than Murray. Recording just three strikeouts, he relied on getting ground balls and letting his defense to most of the work. The deception he portrays with his low, three quarter delivery is what causes a lot of hitters to roll over to the pull side. All in all, the Lehigh lefty is a strike thrower that just got bite by some cheap hits and an error, leading to him taking the tough luck loss.

### **Closing Time**

After eight shutout innings, Sag Harbor went to their closer Nathan Moore to get the final three outs. The most noticeable thing about Moore was his arm whip. His arm comes through really quick and makes the ball look like its jumping on the hitter. Along with his fastball, Moore featured a slider that falls straight off the table into the dirt. He did issue a walk but was poised enough to retire the potential go ahead run. Moore profiles as a true relief pitcher with his fastball-slider combination as deadly as any in this league. He earned the save and solidified the win for his college teammate at Cincinnati, Nick Murray.

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