

Veteran's Memorial Field

The Box Score

The home team Tomcats knocked off the Ospreys in this one by a score of 11-1. The game was called after 8 innings due to a mercy rule. UMass Lowell product Robert Gallagher had a big game as he tallied 3 hits and 4 RBIs. The Tomcat pitching, headed by starter Bobby Vath, limited North Fork to just 6 hits over 8 one run innings. The loss was the Ospreys 4th straight to start the season, while Riverhead improved to 3-1.

More Than the Box Score

Gallagher's day at the plate helped the Tomcats tremendously to get the win, however, his baseball IQ and game awareness really stood out. After striking out early in the game, Gallagher adjusted at the plate. He battled in the 3rd inning and eventually came through on a two out, two strike fastball headed for the outside corner. Instead of trying to do too much, the lefty laced a double in the left center field gap, scoring the first run of the game for Riverhead. The game remained tied at 1 until the 6th when Gallagher's smarts really showed through and proved to be the difference. North Fork lefthander Jared Bellissimo had retired eight in a row when Gallagher decided to bunt with 1 out in the 6th. It threw Bellissimo off his rhythm as Gallagher started what would be the beginning of a rally. He later stole 2nd without a throw and

was running again on the very next pitch when David Kale hit a ball that was not fielded cleanly at shortstop. Had he not swung, Gallagher would have made it to 3rd base standing up. In total, three runs scored in the inning because Bellissimo had lost his rhythm.

On the Losing Side

SUNY Cortland outfielder Joseph Tardif really impressed all around. He had a very sound approach at the plate and knew what he wanted to do each time his turn came around. No one could touch Bobby Vath's fastball all day except Tardif. He had two hits off Vath, one to center and one to right. Tardif's short quick swing paired with his right center approach is what enables him to hit the ball to all fields. At just 5'8", Tardif needs something to make him stand out and his approach at the plate appeared to be much more seasoned than the rest of his team.

Pitching Matchup

This game was much closer than the final score due in large part to Bobby Vath and Jared Bellissimo. Although the two starters had completely opposite styles they were equally successful throughout the first 5 innings. Vath proved to be a true power pitcher with a power fastball. He did feature a slider, however, he went to the fastball more often than not in this one. The velocity on the heater along with his deceptive delivery made it difficult on the Osprey hitters. The only signs of struggle for Vath seemed to be when he would hold on to his slider a

bit too tight and overthrow. Some sliders came out flat and others ran high, but this seems to be a pitch that can work for him as long as he keeps developing.

Bellissimo, on the other side, was more of a pitch to contact, crafty lefty. He did have 7 strikeouts, but it seemed like he preferred to let his defense play. He rolled through the first 5 innings with around only 60 pitches. Bellissimo was a true 3 pitch pitcher, willing to throw his curveball and changeup in any count. He maintained a repeatable delivery throughout, holding the Tomcats at bay for most of the afternoon. The 12-6 breaker that he featured seemed to be one that can play at any level as the opposing hitters could not square it up or predict when it was coming.