

Aviator Field

The Box Score

The Road Warriors lost a heartbreaker 5-4 as Aviator left fielder Ryan Ford sent his team to a win with a walk-off solo home run. The offense came early in this game as the score was quickly 4-3 after two innings of play. Along with his home run, the Penn State standout Ford tallied a double making him one of four Aviator hitters with a multi-hit game. Westhampton improved to 2-2 on the season, while the Road Warriors suffered their first loss in their fourth game to open the season.

More Than the Box Score

Although Ford played the role of hero, the toughest out all day long had to be Binghamton senior Daniel Franchi. The center fielder really impressed with his patience at the plate and willingness to let the ball travel. Franchi had at bats of 6, 7 and 8 pitches in this one and only swung and missed twice. Early in the count he wanted to drive the ball, but as the count got to two strikes he would really shorten up and become a pest for the pitcher. Franchi's speed was also a game changer. In his first AB, he hit a slow roller causing the shortstop to rush and make an error, which led to a three-run rally. Later in the game, Franchi hit a line drive to the right center gap and turned a sure single into a hustle double. He would later steal third due

to a great jump when he was able to get halfway down the line before the pitch was even thrown. In the number 2 spot in the order, Franchi's grit and focus was able to set the tone for the big hitters in this lineup.

Pitcher Spotlight

Erubiel Candelario, out of Marist, started the game for Westhampton and struggled early. He finished with quite the confusing, yet accurate, stat line by game's end. In 5 innings of work, Candelario walked 5, but allowed just 2 hits and 3 runs. This made sense because of the inconsistencies in his delivery. The righty had a tendency where his glove hand and hip would bail way too early causing his pitches to miss up and away. In the early innings, this is what happened and Candelario walked 4 batters in the first two innings. However, when his body was in sync he showed an electric fastball and a curveball with exceptional bite and depth. In innings 3-5 Long Island could not get anything going against him. The other facet of his game that needs a little work is the deception when he goes to a breaking ball. Candelario's arm speed slowed tremendously when he went to one of his secondary pitches. From watching the game, it was obvious which pitch was coming, however, he seemed lucky that the Road Warriors did not really pick up on it. If he irons out those two mechanical issues, Candelario certainly has the stuff to get consistent outs against Division 1 batters.

A Positive from a Negative

Left hander Anthony Jacobacci did not have his best day on the mound as he gave up 7 hits and 4 runs (3 earned) in just three innings of work. The Bridgeport starter struggled all day with fastball command and the Aviator hitters knew it. They were able to sit on breaking balls and hit the mistake fastballs when they ran over the middle. Jacobacci did have some tools that are necessary for a lefthanded pitcher that doesn't throw very hard. First, he had a quality pick off move that led to two outs on the bases. Also, Jacobacci featured a curveball, slider and change up that were better than his fastball. He does work downhill and gain a lot of tilt, but those two things may be causing him to struggle with his release point on the fastball. The tilt he gets would aid him in changing the hitter's eye level if he can find command of his fastball. If Jacobacci can find a consistent release point and get that fastball going downhill as well as his other pitches do, than he can become a weapon for Long Island throughout this season.