

Bellport HS

The Box Score

Long Island snapped their nine-game losing streak by defeating North Fork 5-4 in ten innings. The Road Warriors were able to rally in extras after they blew a one-run lead with two outs in the ninth inning. John Marti was able to scamper home on a sacrifice fly from Eric Roubal in order to win the ball game. Long Island got their ninth win of the season in twenty-eight games and North Fork dropped to 12-19.

More Than the Box Score

Eric Roubal's consistent approach at the plate is what allowed him to be productive when it mattered. Although he did not have a hit in this one, Roubal was a key contributor to the victory. He had an idea at the plate to take fastballs to the opposite field and adjust on breaking pitches. The simplicity in his swing is what allowed him to be successful with that style. The Queens College product also displayed a simple ability to get on base. After flying out on an off-speed pitch to deep left field in the first inning, Roubal had four productive at bats: two walks, a hit-by-pitch and the game winning sacrifice fly. He proved to be a tough out in the middle of the Road Warriors lineup and was vital towards them coming away with a victory in this one.

Calm, Cool and Collected

Road Warrior righthander Chris Mott did not have his best stuff in this one. However, after giving up two runs in the first inning, he limited North Fork to just one more in the next five. Mott was not dominant like he was in his last start against Westhampton, but he was equally effective in giving his team a chance to win. He flew open more with his front side today, walking four batters, but battled every inning. It was very impressive that when things were not going great, Mott maintained his composure. He stuck to his routine on the mound and got himself out of jams consistently. He ended strong as well. Joe Tardif, who had hit two ropes off of Mott at the time, came up in a tie game with runners on the corners. Mott was able to throw two of his best sliders back to back for a called strike and a swinging strike to end his outing. Anybody can pitch well when they have their "A" stuff, but it takes a true ace to be able to keep his team in the game when his stuff is not there.

The Other Side of the Ball

Although the Ospreys lost today, the game would not have even gotten to extra innings without the defense of Tyler White and Javier Vaz. White, a right fielder from Hofstra, recorded an outfield assist in the second inning and showcased an outstanding first step. With his team down 3-2, White scurried down the right field line to catch a ball fading into foul territory. He quickly pivoted and threw a strike home, on a straight line, to nail the runner tagging up at the

plate. This throw should have been White's second outfield assist of the game, but his catcher dropped another perfect throw the inning before.

Vaz, on the other hand, was a wizard at shortstop. He displayed incredible footwork on balls up the middle as well as to his backhand side. There was one play where Vaz made an effortless pirouette towards center field, yet still got off a strong throw, with no time lost, that nabbed the runner at first base. He also made a game-saving play in the bottom half of the ninth inning. With a runner on second and on out there was a little flare sent into left-center field. Neither outfielder had a chance, so Vaz ran hard to make an over-the-shoulder catch, then span and fired to second base for the double play. The Road Warriors quickly realized that it would be an automatic out if they hit the ball anywhere in Vaz's direction. Oh yeah, he's hitting .338 on the season and scored the game tying run in the ninth inning. Vaz is going into his second year at Junior College Louisiana State at Eunice.

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