

Black Knights diamondmen play in Florida

The Lake-Lehman Black Knight baseball team spent several months preparing for the 2007 baseball season.

Fall fundraising included spirit towels and glo-sticks sold at football games, pizza sales, and bucket brigades at busy intersections throughout the Lake-Lehman School District during the coldest months of the winter. They finally capped off their efforts with the first-ever Lake-Lehman Baseball Clinic for Little Leaguers.

All fundraising efforts were supported by the Baseball Booster Club and were a great success! The teams' efforts paid off with the third consecutive trip to Florida for spring workouts.

The Black Knights, under the direction of Coach Brian Gorski, Assistant Coaches Kevin Ward, Bill Holena and Robert Peron, participated in the 38th Annual Dunedin Spring Classic Tournament, marking the team's second trip to this tournament. The tournament features some of the best Florida high school teams in the greater Tampa/Clearwater area.

In their opening round, the Knights defeated the defending tournament champ Northeast High School, 2-1, in what turned out to be a pitching duel. Bobby Peron pitched six strong innings for the Knights, only giving up two hits and one run. Scott Davis finished off Northeast in relief in the seventh inning.

After the Knights shut down Northeast in the top of the first by ending the inning with a double-play, they wasted no time by scoring in the bottom half. Lead-off hitter Kevin Butler started by drawing a walk. After stealing second, Butler scored on a single by Scott Davis. Northeast came right back in the top of the second to tie the game.

The Knights took the lead for good in the fourth inning when Kevin Racemus drew a walk, stole second, then scored on a single by Mike Prater. Northeast's other hit came in the fifth inning with two outs, but the inning ended when Bill Holena threw out the runner on an attempted steal.

In the Knight's second round game, they defeated Palm Harbor, 5-2. Kevin Racemus picked up the win on the mound, pitching five innings, giving up only three hits and two runs. Sam Kapral pitched the final two innings in relief, giving up only one hit. The Knights' bats came alive, scattering eight hits.

The Knights put up four runs in the top of the second. Mike Prater led off the inning with a triple then scored on a single by Bill Holena. Ken Pollock drew a walk and Holena scored on a single by Eoin Ellis, with Pollock moving to third. Ellis stole second, Kevin Butler drew a walk to load the bases, then Pollock and Ellis scored on a double by Scott Davis.

The Knights scored their fifth run in the top of the fourth when Tom Perry started the inning with a single, stole second, then scored on a single by Davis.

In the semi-final game, the Knights lost to Countryside, 11-1, running in to a buzz saw of pitcher in 6'6" lefty Tom Stortz. With Division One and professional scouts watching the game, Stortz did not disappoint, striking out 14 and walking just two. Davis picked up the loss, pitching four innings, with Eoin Ellis and Sam Kapral pitching in relief.

Countryside picked up its first run in the top of the third, then went up, 4-0, in the top of the fourth. The Knights answered in the bottom of the fourth with their only run. Scott Davis started with a double, then scored on a triple by Mike Prater.

The Knights had an opportunity to play in the tournament consolation game for third place on March 30 but came up short, to Venice, 8-3. The consolation game and tournament finals are held in Knology Park, the spring training home of the Toronto Blue Jays.

Mike Prater and Bobby Peron were named to the 38th Annual Dunedin Spring Classic All Tournament Team, marking the second consecutive year Prater received this honor.



Rangers' base runner John Murray makes it safely to base, despite a gallant attempt from Dodgers' third baseman Logan Bullock.



Chad DeBona put everything he's got into an attempt to stop a ball in right field.



The Back Mountain Little League season starts in the dugout with ball toss practice between Michael Mazula and Ben Attanasio.

Play ball – FINALLY!

Finally – weather nice enough to play baseball. Action got started recently in the Back Mountain Little League with a game between the Rangers and the Dodgers. The Rangers put up a good fight but the Dodgers came away with an 11-0 victory. Members of both teams – not to mention their coaches and parents – were just glad to be able to get away from snowblowers and snow shovels and don baseball mitts and helmets.

PHOTOS FOR THE DALLAS POST/ CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Cody Paraschak tosses a loose ball back to pitcher Jack Matosiak but Chad DeBona slides in to score the run for the Rangers, who picked up an 11-0 victory.



The look on Jack Matosiak's face says it all – he's serious about his job as pitcher for the Dodgers.

O'Reilly basketball banquet to honor coaches, players

The Bishop O'Reilly boys basketball program final banquet will be a tribute honoring seniors and previous players under coaches Belenski, Darling and Guido.

The banquet will be held on Saturday, May 19, at the Ramada Inn, Public Square, Wilkes-Bare. Cocktail hour will be from 6 to 7 p.m. with

dinner served at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the school office or by calling Bob or Ann Coolbaugh at 287-4635 or Mark Belenski at 675-3864.

Tickets must be purchased by May 14. For additional information, contact Frank Sobek at 693-4544.

Bandits lacrosse teams see plenty of action

Teams in the Back Mountain Bandits lacrosse program saw action last week. Following are scores from those games.

GIRLS

Back Mountain 8, Wyoming Seminary MS 6; Middleburg JV 7, Back Mountain 6 (overtime); Wyoming Seminary JV 6, Back Mountain 4

U19 HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

Central Montour 6, Back Mountain 1

U15 BOYS

Shawnee-Easton 9, Back Mountain 7

U13 BOYS

Forks 8, Back Mountain 0

U11 BOYS

Back Mountain 5, Forks 2