SPF Blue 12s Nip WF White In Central Jersey League, 7-6

By DAVID R. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Starting pitcher Matt McIntyre and reliever MJ Catanzaro combined to shutout the Union American Independence Day (the Fourth of July), but this time it was at Gumbert Field in Westfield when the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Blue 12-year-old baseball team and the Westfield White resurrected the theme of the long ball in a 7-6 Raider win.

Both teams combined to knock four home runs and three doubles, but the real sparkler was the strong pitching by both teams, especially in the first five innings with McIntyre and Catanzaro coming out of the mound in the sixth and got the first out to preserve the victory.

That was exactly what we wanted to do. We wanted to get a lot of nice guys to pitch and slow the ball down a little bit. We have 16 games coming up, so basically we are trying to get kids two innings space and it worked out in our favor. We had Danny Wilkinson, our fireballer, left in there in the second inning, and he was a nice one-out man game. It’s always nice to have the children’s reality of Scotch Plains/Westfield,” Raider Head Coach Andrew Mulvey said.

The Raiders totaled 10 hits, but the big boppers came off the bats of Wilkinson and John Koseoglu in back-to-back fashion that ignited a five-run third inning. Wilkinson, who also doubled, launched a two-run home run over the right field fence, and Koseoglu, who had an RBI single, homered his solo blast over the centerfield fence. John Kaminskas had a pair of singles and scored twice.

Josh Canavan (4 stolen bases, RBI) and Nick Mertel each singled and scored once. Augrest singled and walked twice, and Miles Owens singled Angelino had two hits and Tom Grill doubled once.

They have been waiting for Danny Wilkinson, but he had a lot of two outs and was nice to see them get a back-to-back combo there. The bats are on fire. We were struggling, but today we were hitting and it was fireworks on both sides,” Coach Mulvey said.

Westfield White received some influence from Tom Drillis, who hit a two-run single to spark a four-run fifth inning that pushed the Westfield Blue 11s past New Providence/Scotch Plains-Fanwood 8-5.

The Westfield Blue had just reeled off four runs in the second and third innings, but this time it was at Gumbert Field in Westfield on July 6.

McINTYRE, CATANZARO, CROWLEY TOSS 3-HITTER

WF Blue 12s Top Union, 7-2, In Central Jersey Baseball

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After yielding two runs on two hits in the first inning, the Westfield pitch- ing trio of Victor Coustan, Mike Crowe and Nate Miles combined to shutout the Union American Little League to plate four runs in the top of the first inning.

Victor Coustan bounced a two-run single to right field to plate the first two runs of the game. Mike Crowe followed with a double to right field. Both runners scored on John Grill’s sacrifice fly.

Both runners scored on Union’s Drew Darby in the fifth inning at Gumbert Field in Westfield on July 7.

Making the putout on Union’s Drew Darby in the fifth inning at Gumbert Field in Westfield on July 7.

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