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FISCHER SNAGS WICKED LINER AT SHORTSTOP, SHAKAL SINGLES TO DRIVE IN CALLAHAN

WF White 9U and Long Hill Game Dampened at Gumbert

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Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Thunder, lightning and rain cut short what could have been an exciting game between the Westfield White 9U baseball team and a solid Long Hill squad at Gumbert 2 Field in Westfield on July 3.

Long Hill, coached by Ken McGoldrick, came into the game with an unblemished record and the Westfield White, coached by Brett Fischer and Craig Billings battled into the top of the second inning when the sirens went off and the field had to be evacuated with Long Hill clinging to a 2-1 lead. However, despite such a short outing, both teams displayed remarkable skills control for that age group.

The Long Hill squad was comprised of Trenton Stanard, Tim O'Connell, Evan Ravalli, Brett Christopher, Riley McCann, Mossimo Meehan, Tom Jova, Ken McGoldrick, Martin Howell, Tom Gifford and Matt Novello. Westfield White consisted of Jason Billings, Noah Fischer, Owen Callahan, Theo Sica, Cameron Gilman, Owen Shakal, Ben Kelly, Jared Goldman, Anthony Buoscio, Connor Loggie, Matt Parrish and Leo Mangian.

For age nine an under pitchers, the most difficult task is getting the ball across the plate to avoid yielding a large number of walks. Both teams' pitchers did manage to exercise fine control.

Westfield White pitcher Ben Kelly

permitted only one walk in the first inning and struck out one batter, while allowing two singles and two runs. Long Hill pitcher Tim O'Connell walked no one and recorded a strikeout, while allowing three hits and one run in his one inning on the mound.

Fine fielding also played a major role. Westfield White shortstop Noah Fischer snagged a hard low liner for an out and Catcher Owen Callahan fired to third baseman Theo Sica to pick off a runner for the third out. Long Hill leftfielder Tom Gifford hauled in a difficult fly ball and O'Connell, on the mound, managed to get to a slow roller in time to fire home to get a force out to prevent Westfield White from knotting the score.

In the Long Hill top of the first inning, Trenton Stanard beat out an infield single. O'Connell followed with a free pass then Fischer made his fine grab of a liner off the bat of Evan Ravalli. Kelly struck out Brett Christopher for the second out then

Riley McCann slashed a two-run single down the first base line. Later, Callahan picked off McCann at third to end the inning.

In the Westfield first, Jason Billings led off by slipping the ball past the third baseman. Noah Fischer's long fly ball was hauled in by Gifford then Callahan drilled a single up the middle. Theo Sica chopped a single off first and Cameron Gilman grounded out back to the mound. Owen Shakal's little hopper down third scored Callahan then O'Connell fanned the next batter for the third out.

In the top of the second, Massimo Meehan and Tom Jova drew walks, but the sirens went off and the game was halted.

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