



But small ball and crafty base running were present with nearly every run that was scored and it began in the bottom of the first inning when leadoff hitter Jamie Shriner drew a walk off Raider starting pitcher Danny Wilkinson, who will play at Villanova next year, and Mike Murphy also drew a free pass. After a strikeout, both pulled off a double steal then Szczech pushed an RBI groundout to the right side.

Cougar starting pitcher Jake Van Dam yielded a single to Josh Canavan in the second inning but Joe Meola, who was catching, later gunned him down attempting to steal.

That strategy really worked out in the Cranford second inning. Johnson drew a leadoff walk then Joe Meola tapped a bunt single that also caused a throwing error as Johnson raced to third. Mike

Meola's bunt also caused a throwing error as Johnson scored. Next Wilkinson's wild pitch advanced both runners then Shriner lashed a two-run single to right field.

"Cranford is known to be scrappy. We were scrappy today. It's all part of the plan. When you come to Cranford, you are not going to get it easy," Meola said.

The Raiders scored twice in the third. Wilkinson walked then Jonny Ramos (3-for-4, 2 runs) laid down a bunt single that also caused a throwing error, allowing Wilkinson's pinch runner Ricky Lopez to score. Dean Kirian walked then both runners advanced on another wild pitch, setting up Willy Gale's RBI sac fly to center.

Cuccurullo relieved in the third inning and tossed four straight hitless innings although he did

walk six and hit a batter during that span. In the meantime at shortstop, Ramos initiated a key

inning-ending double play involving second baseman Pat Dembiec in the sixth.



"It was hard hit and I was lucky that Dembiec made a good play on it. It was a good double play for us," Ramos said.

"He did a good job. That was one of those plays where he flipped to second. I was saying No! No! Then he got the guy and Patrick turned it really quick. That was great double play in a tight spot," Raider Head Coach Joe Higgins expressed.

Ramos' two-out double to leftfield the inning before set up a three-run inning that gave the Raiders the 5-4 lead. Kirian followed with a walk then Gale beat out an infield RBI single and later stole second base. Mike Dieu stepped up an punched a two-run single to left.

"I was just trying to get on base and have people move me over. I wanted to get us going when we

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