

ISRAEL THROWS SIX INNINGS OF HEAT RECORDING 13 STRIKEOUTS IN 5-0 WIN OVER SPRAYBERRY

MARCH 4, 2024

Jacob Israel faced just 20 batters in six innings, threw 78 pitches- 54 of them strikes, and had the Yellowjackets take walks BACK to the dugout and not to first base. Israel gave up zero walks on the evening in the scoreless, two hit evening. **Parker Troughton** held the scoreless performance by facing the final three batters recording two strikeouts swinging and a fly ball out snagged by **Everett Espe** in center field to end the game.

And while Israel kept the score at zero on his end, **Luke Winbush's** leadoff walk in the top of the 4th was the spark the offense needed. Winbush had the pitcher timed up and got off the bag to steal second with **Aaron Best** at the plate. On the throw, Winbush swiped third. Best connected on a pitch that was caught in right field allowing Winbush to cross the plate on the sac fly. The inning ended with the Greyhounds up 1-0.

Israel faced the top of the order in the bottom of the 4th setting the batters down in 1-2-3 order. Israel had 4 innings of minimum batters on the evening- 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 6th.

Up by one run in the top of the 6th, **Will Zeigler** was hit by a pitch. His attempt to steal second was successful with an overthrow of the bag at second. He then swiped third on a wild pitch by the starting pitcher. **Luke Winbush** drew a four pitch, two out walk to extend the inning. And, in what was his best contact of the evening, **Aaron Best** sent a scorcher to left field that plated Zeigler and Winbush on a 3-2 count. Best advanced to second on the single with an error on the throw to home. The score moved to 3-0 Pope.

The Yellowjackets pulled the starting pitcher and sent in a righty reliever. With **Thomas Williams** at the plate, Best moved to 3rd on a passed ball and Williams drew a walk to first. **Maddox Corya** connected on a fastball down the middle and sent it 350 plus feet to the wall in right center for one of the longest balls of the season that was caught, snow cone style, to end the rally.

The young pups added some insurance runs in the top of the 7th when the second reliever of the night for Sprayberry served up a lead off walk to **JC Slavis**. Two batters later, **Chandler Mathis** drew a walk after Slavis stole second. **Everett Espe** got the barrel of the bat on the first pitch he saw sending it past the left fielder. Slavis made the turn to come home, and Mathis advanced to 3rd. **Will Ziegler** knocked a sac liner to the shortstop that allowed Mathis to score.

The Yellowjackets went down 1-2-3 for reliever Parker Troughton and the game ended. Sprayberry collected just 2 hits in the game.

The win moved the JV Greyhounds to a 5-5 record. The hot production at the plate of **Aaron Best** netted him 3 RBIs on the night. The double by **Everett Espe** and singles from **JC Slavis** and Best were just the right amount of balls in play on the evening. Winbush stole two bases and teammates Slavis, Troughton, and Williams grabbed one each.

Greyhounds will be back in action on Wednesday evening (update: game rained out) against the River Ridge JV Knights. The game against the boys from Woodstock will have a 6:30 start time at Jeff Rowland Field.