

The Larchwood pounds Ocean team to improve playoff hopes *Monmouth County Senior (Over 50) Softball Association*

By Jack Oakley

The Larchwood continued its playoff drive and halted Huff'n Puff's Tuesday night at Lenna Conrow School by whipping the Ocean Township team, 15-5.

The winning West Long Branch team upped its record to 8-9 in the Monmouth County senior (over 50) Softball Association while the Huff'n Puff slipped to 6-10.

The league will wind up its regular season next week with The Larchwood playing its last home game Tuesday night at the North Long Branch school at 6:30 p.m. After a scoreless first inning, The Larchwood exploded over the final five innings against the combined servings of Mario Grivas and Dick Cero.

Butch Cook took the mound in place of injured brother Ray, and stopped Huff'n Puff on nine hits.

Ernie Farley led a 19-hit Larchwood attack with four hits with three runs batted in.

Cook clubbed a three-run home run in the second inning and had a double and single with his two-bagger scoring three more runs.

Huff'n Puff scored four times in the third inning and once in the seventh. Ted Bates and Cero each had two hits for the Ocean team.

Bates and George DeGirolamo started the Huff'n Puff third with singles and Grivas reached base on an error. Cero then singled for two runs and took second on an outfield error.

Grivas scored when Bob Chernin grounded to third and Cero came around on Hoody Sexton's base knock.

Cook set the losers down in order with a fine play by Dick Traversa, who came running in to make a shoestring catch in center field helping the winners.

In the Puffers sixth, Bob Dalton singled with one out and John Martin booted Sexton's grounder. Tough to bend over at age 72, Sexton moved up on a fielder's choice, went to third on Bob Becker's single and scored as the ball was booted around the outfield.

In The Larchwood's second, Martin led off with a hit, but was erased on a forceout. Spanky Aschettino singled and Cook followed with his home run.

Farley led off with the first of his four hits in the third and Bob Martin drew the first of his three straight walks.

Guy Siniscalco singled for the first run Rocky

(The Jet) Giurlando singled in Martin. A one out walk to Don Everson in the fourth was followed by Farley's second hit. Martin walked to load the bases and Siniscalco knocked in a pair with a shot to the left field. John Martin singled to score his brother Bob, but Siniscalco was called out for running over home plate, a no-no in the over 50 circuit.

An error and two walks led to Grivas's demise in the fifth with Cero coming in. He was promptly greeted by Cook's double which made the score 11-4. Everson's hit moved Cook to third with Everson taking second on the throw-in. Farley's third hit scored them both.

A single by Giurlando started The Larchwood sixth and The Chief sped around the bases as the ball got loose in right field. Cook singled and scored on Farley's fourth hit.

Siniscalco was charged with striking out after fouling off a couple of two strike pitches causing Joe McGarvey, now relegated to a spectator's role, to wonder what the spread was. Siniscalco lives in Ocean Township and his daughter, Nicole, plays first base for the high school team. He could have taken a couple of lessons from her, all 4-10 of him. Hmm. Wonder what the spread really was?

8 EXTRA INNINGS



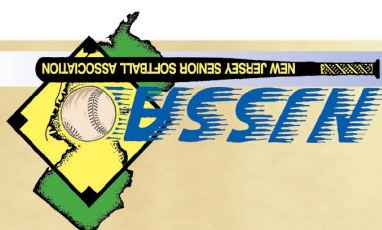
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