

## April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009—Central Catholic 2 – Gresham 3

Gresham High School—Central Catholic opened the 2009 league season with a walk-off loss at Gresham on Thursday. The Rams sent senior pitcher Joe Farrell to the rubber to contend with the Gopher hitters. Joe started the game wild walking three in the first inning and giving up a run on a double to center field. With one out and the bases loaded Joe then induced a ground ball to Ryan Ecalbarger at 3<sup>rd</sup> base who threw to Ryan Matheny at the plate for the second out. Matheny was able to pivot and throw to Max Virnig at first to turn the 5-2-3 double play ending the inning. Farrell then settled in walking just one more batter and giving up only a solo home run in his subsequent 5 innings of work.

The Central Catholic offense was completely stifled by Gresham's starting pitcher. The Rams only managed to put three hits on the board. Hunter Weiss singled in the first inning, max Virnig singled in the fifth and Ryan Ecalbarger singled in the sixth inning. The Rams had runners on first and second base with no outs in the sixth after Andrew Hillis walked and Ecalbarger knocked his base hit to left. However, two sacrifice bunt attempts went awry and the Gophers were able to make two outs without allowing a runner to advance. Hunter Weiss then reached by error on an overthrow of first that scored Hillis and moved Ecalbarger to third base. Eck then scored on a pass ball moving Weiss to third and tying the score at two apiece. The inning ended on a strikeout and the Rams would not threaten in the seventh.

With the score tied at two in the bottom of the seventh Gresham loaded the bases with a walk and two base hits before forcing in the winning run on a hit by pitch. The loss was largely due to Gresham's quality starting pitching and Central Catholic's inability to execute offensively. The defensive effort today was outstanding as the Rams turned a crucial double play and played errorless ball.

<u>Box</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
Rams	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Gophers	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3

### Offensive Highlights

Ecalbarger: 1 for 2, run

### Pitchers

Farrell: 6 innings, 2 earned, No Decision

Ecalbarger: 1/3 inning, 1 earned, Loss