

April 4th 2009—Central Catholic 9 – Gresham 6

Gresham High School—The Rams were able to even their league record and the series with Gresham on this sunny afternoon in a home game played on the road. Jacob Ley took the pill to the bump to start and left the game with a 6-4 lead through 4 innings of work. He struck out 5 and gave up just two earned runs getting the win. Ryan Ecalbarger pitched two innings of relief holding the Gophers at bay while the Rams increased their lead. Louis Ceciliani entered in the seventh with two runners on and needed just 5 pitches to record three outs and get the save.

Central's offense came back to life a bit today after being held to 6 runs in the previous three games. Although they mustered just 5 hits they were patient in drawing 6 walks and put the ball in play with two strikes ten times, taking advantage of 5 Gopher errors. With the bases loaded and one out in the first Casey Minnick grounded to third to score Hunter Weiss who hustled home sliding to beat the Gopher attempt at the plate. Joe Farrell then lifted a ball to right field, again with two strikes, to score Bryce McKinney from third. Scoring runners with two strikes in this fashion has been an issue for the Rams this season so this first inning was a huge confidence and morale boost. Central took a two run lead in the 3rd inning when Max Virnig's second home run of the season, a two run shot, got out of the yard quickly on a line over the right field fence bringing back echoes of Virnig's game tying blast here last season. After Gresham tied the game in the top of the 4th Chris Zeleznik opened the bottom half with a pinch hit single and eventually scored on a misplayed McKinney blooper down the left field line. That play also scored Ryan Matheny who had blooped a single to left. The Rams loaded the bases with walks in the 5th and got three more runs one coming via Gopher error and two on a Hunter Weiss base hit struck soundly back up the middle. Gresham would answer with two run home run in the 6th but would not threaten again.

Despite being out hit the Rams took advantage of errors and walks today and played decently defensively. Dillon Abate was able to successfully sacrifice bunt, a moral victory at this stage. Dillon also ended the game with a 4-3 double play on a ground ball coaxed by Louis Ceciliani.

| <u>Box</u> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | T |
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| Gophers | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Rams | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 |

Offensive Highlights

McKinney: 1 for 3, 2 runs
Weiss: 1 for 4, run, RBI
Zeleznik: 1 for 1, run
Abate: sacrifice bunt! run

Pitchers

Ley: 4 innings, 5 strikeouts, 2 earned, Win
Ecalbarger: 2 innings, 2 earned
Ceciliani: inning, no runs, Save