

April 20th 2009—Central Catholic 5 – Sandy 2

Bell Street Ballpark, Sandy OR—Senior Joe Farrell increased his season record to 4-0 in 5 innings of work today earning a win against the home Pioneers. Joe scattered 6 hits through those innings giving up just 2 runs and striking out 5 batters. Two of those hits were given up in the first inning allowing Sandy to take an early 1-0 lead. Sandy scored their only other run on a solo round tripper in the 5th before senior Ryan Ecalbarger threw the 6th and 7th innings in shutout fashion to earn the Save. The key to today's pitching performances was accuracy. Joe gave up just two walks and Ryan did not walk a batter. Keeping the bases empty allowed the Rams to hold hard hitting Sandy to just two runs despite their seven hits.

The Ram swingers were stymied early today by Sandy's left handed starter who did not give up a run in the first 3 innings of the game. In the 4th inning the Pioneer's were able to record two outs quickly on just 7 pitches and it looked like the Rams were truly baffled. Kam White then calmly strode to the plate and lined a 1-0 fastball well over the left center field fence to tie the ballgame at 1 run apiece. Farrell then breezed through the bottom of the 4th inning and retired the Pioneers in order striking out the last batter of the inning and shifting the momentum toward the visiting side. Hunter Weiss started the top the 5th with a base hit that was followed by a walk to Jacob Ley and base hit by Ryan Matheny to load the bases with nobody out. Andrew Hillis was then able to bring Weiss in from third base with an RBI fielder's choice ground out to the first baseman. Bryce McKinney then got into the action with a hard hit RBI double to right center field. Hillis was coached too far around 3rd base on the play and was thrown out for the second out trying to retreat. With McKinney on second base and two outs Joe Farrell hit a 2-2 pitch hard up the middle for a single that scored McKinney and made the score 4-1 Rams after 4 ½ innings. Chris Zeleznik reached on a walk in the 6th and scored the final run for Central on a Pioneer error.

The Rams stayed positive and maintained their confident approach at the plate despite being shut down early today and it led to runs later in the game. Combined with the pitching efforts of Farrell and Ecalbarger it ended up earning them a good league win.

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

Offensive Highlights

McKinney: 2 for 3, run, RBI, 2B

Farrell: 2 for 3, RBI

Ley: 2 for 2, run

White: HR

Pitchers

Farrell: 5 innings, 2 earned 5 strikeouts, Win

Ecalbarger: 2 innings, 0 earned, strikeout, Save