

ST. LOUIS METRO COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

THE METRO MINUTE

July 8, 2010

Wildwood Dodgers	16 - 5	
Ballwin Bandits	15 - 5	one suspended game (leading Alton 7 - 0 in the 8th)
Alton Indians	11 - 8	two suspended games (tied w/ U City in 9th; behind Ballwin 7-0 in 8th)
St. Charles Mules	12 - 8	one suspended game (<i>winning 7 - 5 in the eighth</i>)

The Battle for Seeding

As expected, last night's games inched us closer to determining the order of seeding for the Metro Collegiate League playoffs - tantalizingly closer. Still, we do not know, between Ballwin and Wildwood, which team will be number one and which will be number two. The same is true between Alton and St. Charles for the third and fourth seeds. Last night set the table, but a series of suspended games involving the Bandits, the Mules and the Indians, will make the final determination. Those games will not play until next week. And so the drama continues...

Wildwood Dodgers The Wildwood Dodgers hosted the U City Lions last night at Washington University. On the hill for Wildwood was their ace, Danny Sandbrink (5 - 0). The Lions drew first blood. With a runner on in the second inning, Chris Forbringer brought rain with a bomb over the left field fence. Wildwood answered the offense with two of their own in the bottom of the second and a single tally in the bottom of the third. Sandbrink settled down after that, pitching eight full innings and allowing only a single run in the sixth. Meanwhile, the Dodgers offense posted three more in the seventh and two for good measure in the bottom of the eighth to nail down the W. Austin Schuler took the loss for U City.

With that victory, Lombardo's troops put the pressure on Rick Fiala's Bandits to finish on top in their suspended game with the Alton Indians. If they don't, the Dodgers would snatch the number one seed. Ballwin is leading Alton in that game 7 - 0 in the eighth inning.

Ballwin Bandits Ballwin knew that they had to get past a reeling Bridgeton team in order to keep their number one hopes alive. Though they are in the midst of a disappointing season, Reitz's bunch can drop the hammer on any given night, having scored more than fifteen runs on three occasions this season. The Knights sent hard thrower Zach Tolliver to the mound; Fiala countered with Shawn Spainhoward (6 - 0).

The Bandits scored two quick runs in the bottom of the first and a single tally in the bottom of the second. That was all Spainhoward would need as he cruised through five scoreless innings, enroute to a win. Scott Pennington and Trevor Manis teamed up for two innings of work, allowing one Bridgeton run in the seventh before giving way to Nathan Goeke, who pitched two scoreless innings to notch the save. Zach Tolliver suffered his fifth loss of the season. Ballwin's victory has them poised to lock up the number one seed.

St. Charles Mules Pat Evers had his work cut out for him as he took on the Clayton Wasps last night. The Clayton team is another one that can jump up and bite you, as Bridgeton found out last Thursday. But the Mules put Clayton to bed early with a seven-run explosion in the fourth inning. That was all Pat's boys would need as the Mules pitchers combined for a three-hit, 10 - 0 shutout. C.J. Rose (2 - 0) logged the win and Cedric Ingram (0 - 2) took the loss for Clayton. The Mules are now one game ahead of the Indians with only a suspended game left to play against U City. St. Charles is ahead in that game, 7 - 5 in the eighth inning. The heat is now on Alton to win both of their suspended games, one of which has them down 7 - 0 in the eighth inning against Ballwin.