Coach's Corner - Season Review

Clark baseball wrapped up its season with a disappointing loss to Springfield College on Thursday, April 25th. in the first round of the NEWMAC Baseball Tournament. The Cougars held a 1-0 lead for six innings before the Pride scored two runs in the bottom half of the 7th inning. First-year Matt Tillo (Osterville, MA/Nashoba H.S.) was in complete control of the game until that point, shutting down the Springfield bats through six solid innings. Tillo's line for the day was an impressive seven innings, one walk, three strike outs, eight hits and two earned runs. But that was not enough to overcome Springfield pitching which held the Cougar bats to only four hits on the afternoon, two of those hits came in the first inning that produced Clark's lone run of the game.

Senior tri-captain Scott Archiblad (Windham, CT/Windham H.S.) had a solid single up the middle that scored sophomore catcher Joe Silva (Westbury, NY / Carle Place H.S.)

The Cougars had split with Springfield earlier in season with Tillo picking up the victory in a complete game effort. "Matt had really shut them down the first time around and we felt that his approach and his ability to hit spots gave us the best opportunity to beat them today. We obviously needed more base runners to help Matt out today and we just did not get that from our offense," explained head coach Jason Falcon, who just completed his 7th season as the Cougar skipper. The game did provide several key defensive moments for both teams. Junior short-stop Kyle Breidenstine (Shoemakersville, PA/Hamburg Area H.S.) had a solid single up the middle that scored sophomore catcher Joe Silva (Westbury, NY / Carle Place H.S.)

Friends of Clark Baseball has been formed under the umbrella of Friends of Clark Athletics. If you are interested in supporting the baseball team and would like more information, please contact Head Coach Jason Falcon at 508-421-3832

2006 Results
Overall Record 9-24
NEWMAC 2-10
Home Games in Bold

March
Sat. 4 vs Dominican University (IL) (DH)# W 4-3 / W 4-2
Sun. 5 vs University of Minnesota-Morris (MN)# W 7-2
Mon. 6 vs MacMurray College (IL) (DH)# W 5-3 / L 3-4
Tue. 7 vs John Carroll University (OH)# L 1-6
Thur. 9 vs Penn State University - Altoona (PA) (DH)$ L 5-7 / L 2-26
Fri. 10 vs Rowan University (NJ)$ L 6-9
Sat. 11 vs Mass College of Liberal Arts (MA) (DH)$ L 5-6 / W 10-0
Thu. 16 at Gordon College W 8-0
Tue. 21 vs Assumption College L 3-13
Thu. 23 at WNEC L 2-5
Sat. 25 vs MIT (DH)* L 4-5 / L 3-6
Sun. 26 vs Nichols College (DH) L 3-4 / W 12-4
Tue. 28 vs Wentworth Institute L 7-10 (10)
April
Sat. 1 vs WPI (DH)* L 3-5 / L 4-11
Thu. 6 vs USCGA* L 0-14
Sat. 8 at Springfield College (DH)* W 5-3 / L 1-3
Tue. 11 at Fitchburg State College L 5-10
Thu. 13 at Elm College L 6-8
Sat. 15 at Wheaton College (DH)* L 5-8 / L 8-17
Tue. 18 at USCGA* W 7-4
Thu. 20 at Rhode Island College L 4-5
Sat. 22 at Babson College (DH) L 3-13 / L 0-2
Thu. 27 at #2 Springfield College NEWMAC Quarterfinals

#Ft. Myers, FL
$ Port Charlotte, FL
* NEWMAC Game
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made a remarkable play up the middle falling to the ground and throwing out a Pride base runner in the 5th inning. “Kyle has played as solid defense this season as any short-stop we have played against but I would have never thought he would have made that play. I know it gave our pitching a boost to see that and it was nice to see Kyle have the confidence to attempt a play like that” commented Falcon. Another key play happened at the end of the sixth inning when Tillo fell into a bases loaded jam and three time all-conference player Adam Tarquini came to the plate for Springfield. Tarquini worked a full count after falling behind in the count and Tillo challenged Tarquini several times only to have those pitches fouled off and out of play. Then on the ninth pitch of the at bat Tillo got Tarquini to foul out behind the plate where Silva made a very impressive catch right up against the backstop. “ I think that Joe had a foot on the fence and one hand holding himself up. You could see how important that pop up was when after the play was made every infielder for Clark was sprinting in behind him to make sure they were there to help. When the count went full you could see it in Matt that he was not going to walk this hitter. He only had nine or so walks on the year and he was not going to get beat because of his mistake. He made three very good pitches in a row and he never gave in to the hitter.”

The season ended in much the same way most of the games had ended for the Cougars this year with a one run loss. Clark played in 21 games decided by three runs or less and had won only six of them. They went 1 and 6 in games decided by one run. Defensively the Cougars were lead by Breidenstine who only committed 12 errors on the year at the short-stop position. The numbers may lean toward a let down in pitching this season but it was the offense that struggled the most. “In college baseball your team needs to produce runs in any way possible. We did not produce enough runs in key situations this season and that is something that we will continue to work on next year.” says coach Falcon.

Postseason Awards

Clark University junior catcher Gunnar Hagstrom (Yarmouth, ME/Yarmouth) was named to the NEWMAC Baseball All-Conference Second Team. Gunnar was second on the team in batting average (.337), first in on base percentage (.487), runs scored (19) and doubles (7). He ranked 15th in the league in batting average. In 32 games, he finished the year with 30 hits and seven RBI.

2005-06 Team Line

| Name | Class | Year | Pos | G | AB | R | H | Avg | 2B | 3B | HR | TB | Slug | Pct. | RBI | SB | SBA | BB | SO | W | L | ERA |
|------|-------|------|-----|---|----|---|---|-----|----|----|-----|----|------|-----|-----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Team Totals | 2006 | 33 | 1020 | 146 | 251 | 10 | 256 | .256 | 48 | 5 | 12 | 3550 | 0.348 | 126 | 29 | 38 | 119 | 187 | 33 | 3 | 9 | 24 | 5 | 2 | 256.0 | 330 | 220 | 180 | 134 | 180 | 6.33 |