Leopards best of Crusader baseball, claim weekend sweep

BY BRENDAN COHN
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

It was a cold weekend at Fitton Field as the Holy Cross baseball team dropped a pair of doubleheaders to visiting Patriot League foe Lafayette. Entering the weekend with a 3-1 record, the Crusaders looked to take three of four from the young Lafayette squad, but the Leopards had a different agenda. The Crusaders’ offense was stagnant, and their defense was dismal as Lafayette commandeered the Crusaders in each of the four games.

The first game Saturday was the high point for the struggling ‘Saders. Although it was a 1-0 loss, senior ace Mike Montano pitched a complete game and kept the Lafayette offense very quiet. Lafayette scored the only run of the game in the third inning when Vince D’Angelo reached second base on a Holy Cross error. The next batter, Craig Alexander, singled D’Angelo home for the one run lead. D’Angelo’s run was unearned as he should have been called out on the first of his three walks of the day. Junior Matt McEvoy then ripped a double, plating Summa to tie the game. Johnson then singled and scored McEvoy for a 2-1 lead, HC’s first of the weekend.

However, it would be the only lead of the series for the ‘Saders as the Leopards exploded in the second and third innings.

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Holy Cross hope to strike back as Coach Matt O’Brien dispatched undefeated junior D.J. Lucey to the mound. Lafayette lead-off man Tye Gonsor started the game with a walk. Lafayette followed the walk with a sacrifice bunt, advancing Gonsor to second base. Gonsor eventually scored on an infield error and gave the Leopards another lead by means of an unexpected error. However, the Leopards were unable to mount any offensive threat as they were shut out by Holy Cross pitcher Marc Ward. The Leopards went the distance allowing only three Holy Cross hits.

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First of all during the singing of the National Anthem when they got to the word "red" the all screamed "RED" and it scared me half to death. Next the CU faithful all pulled out the newspaper act during QU’s starting lineup introduction (they each held a newspaper in front of their faces, as to pretend to be uninterested and disrespectful). This is a classic move that a lot of fans do for a lot of teams and, surprisingly, still seems to be one of my favorites. Less than two minutes into the game, Cornell scored their first goal, and all of a sudden the fans, directed by the band, pointed at the Quinipiac goalie and started chanting, "It’s all your fault! It’s all your fault!” This was the most embarrassing and intimidating thing that I have ever seen in sports. I can’t imagine dealing with that kind of pressure.

Finally to top it all off, Cornell's band kept waiting to see what the QU band was going to play, and then they began playing a different song about 10 seconds after the Quinnipiac band started. This was a great game that really showed not only some of the best college hockey players in the nation, but also some of the best college hockey fans. The fans were on their feet almost the whole game, and it was a lot of fun to see this raucous crowd and the spirited atmosphere. The game ended in OT, with Maine upending the Crusaders only a few minutes into the extra period. (Of course Maine went on to lose in the finals of the tournament on a controversial goal in OT, but that is a story for a different day.) It was everything that I expected a NCAA tournament hockey game to be. It left me very excited for the next game.

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