

Ocala.com

This is a printer friendly version of an article from www.ocala.com
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Article published Mar 28, 2007

Dunnellon no match for Palm Coast

**BY BYRON SAUCER
STAR-BANNER**

OCALA - First-year head coach Tommy Boss took a moment before putting a positive spin on his club's 18-4 loss to 6A Flagler Palm Coast in Tuesday's second round of the Big Sun Challenge at Vanguard High School.

The Dunnellon offense was outthit 14-to-6, a trio of pitchers issued eight walks, the defense made three errors and the Tigers, who fell to 8-8 on the year, lasted only five innings against the state's 10th-ranked squad.

Still, Boss, a standout pitcher at Dunnellon before moving on to college stardom at the University of Florida, managed to extract some good out of a tough morning of baseball.

"The last couple innings (the game) was out of reach, so I told the guys to kind of pretend it was a 0-0 ballgame," Boss said of the Tigers' 16-0 deficit after 3rd innings. "I'm happy with the way we (rallied to score four runs). That's the only positive thing we can take out of this."

The Bulldogs (15-3) erupted for six runs on five hits off DHS starter Jeff Smith in the second inning, including a two-run double from catcher Jesse Piccolo and a two-run single from center fielder Al Yevoli.

Flagler added two more in the third and got a three-run blast from Yevoli in the fourth to key an eight-run inning that put the game away.

Yevoli went 3-for-4 with six RBIs and two runs to lead the Bulldog attack. First baseman Anthony Carabello was perfect 3-for-3 with three RBIs and three runs, including a two-run homer in the fifth, and Piccolo added three hits, three RBIs and



Zoom

Flagler Palm Coast second baseman Mark Jones forces out David Navetta (8) of Dunnellon during Tuesday's Big Sun Challenge action.

BRUCE ACKERMAN/STAR-BANNER

[Purchase Star-Banner photo reprints](#)

three runs for Flagler.

Winning pitcher Sean Medlin tossed three innings of two-hit ball, striking out three hitters before turning the reins over to Blake Roux to start the fourth.

Left fielder Jonny Riley paced the Tigers with two hits, including a triple, and scored a run. Matt Riggs and Danny Permar provided RBI singles and Jesse Ginley singled, stole a base and scored a run for Dunnellon, which falls to 0-2 in the pool play format.

Boss hoped to conserve his pitchers, but Flagler chased Smith with eight runs over the first three innings, and he was forced to go to his bullpen.

Right-hander Brett Freeman got the call - his first of pitching duty of the season - and promptly allowed six hits, a walk and eight runs without retiring a single Bulldog. Shortstop Danny Permar closed out the final two innings for Boss, but not before the player officially became a coach.

"(Coaching's) a lot harder than playing. I've been saying that all along," said Boss, who took over for former coach George Welsh to start the season. "When I'm pitching I only have to worry about myself. Coaching - you've got to worry about every (detail)."

Boss has made a commitment to his alma mater and plans to see the Tigers through this season, and possibly beyond. He is still under contract with the Northern League Joliet JackHammers in Illinois, but has told the team he wouldn't report until his season at DHS was completed.

"I'm gonna give it one more shot," Boss said of his playing days. "Everybody says 'play 'til the wheels come off' so I guess I will. But the wheels feel like they're coming off."

Boss hopes to return and coach the Tigers next season, where he sees plenty of potential.

"The transition was tough at first, but the shock of it is over now," Boss said of replacing Welsh on the fly. "We should start playing together as a team."

"I feel we have some good individual ballplayers, but we just need to mesh together as a team. We stress that and stress that in practice, but it's taking a little longer than I wanted it to."

Flagler, which has outscored its first two opponents 31-5, gets Forest at 1 p.m. today. Dunnellon plays Bozeman at 10 a.m.

FOREST 11, BOZEMAN 1 (6 innings). Tres Ramirez scattered three hits and struck out five over six innings to move Forest to 2-0 in the Big Sun. The right-hander added

a solo home run and an RBI double at the plate to power Wildcats.

Center fielder Mario Urdaneta chipped in a three-run double to break open a 1-0 game in the third inning.

Forest (9-7) will meet Flagler today at 1 p.m. for a berth in the championship game Thursday night.

Bozeman (8-6), which fell to 0-2 in tournament play, faces Dunnellon at 10 a.m.

TREASURE COAST 2, BELLEVIEW 0. Treasure Coast's Paul Davis outdueled Belleview's Frank DeJulio, tossing a three-hit shutout to move the Titans to 1-1 in tournament play.

Davis struck out six Rattlers and delivered a first-inning RBI single that proved to be the winning run.

DeJulio also allowed just three hits, striking out seven and walking four. Mike Phipps doubled to lead the Rattler offense.

Treasure Coast (4-10) plays Port St. Lucie today at 4 p.m. Belleview (9-6) meets host Vanguard in today's 7 p.m. game.

VANGUARD 7, PORT ST. LUCIE 3. J.R. Rekully picked up his eighth win of the year, scattering eight hits in the complete-game victory. Rekully (8-0) struck out six and walked two as the Knights moved to 2-0 in tournament play.

Center fielder Matt Wright went 2-for-4 with an RBI and shortstop Andy Paul delivered a two-run single to power the offense. Eric Grabe added two hits for the Knights, who are now 11-5 for the season.

Port St. Lucie (13-4), 1-1 in tournament play, faces Treasure Coast at 4 p.m.

Vanguard hosts Belleview in the nightcap.

Elsewhere

LAKE WEIR 12, SOUTH SUMTER 9. At Wildwood, Jimmy Hensley hit the seventh inning RBI single that put the Hurricanes on top in their second win at the John Carpenter Memorial Tournament.

Hensley was 2-for-3 at the plate for Lake Weir with teammate Brian Flyke going 2-for-3 with a home run and three RBIs.

Charlie Wood was credited with the win as he gave up one hit with four strikeouts in his three innings on the mound. Dakota Conroy had the save, pitching the final two

innings as well as batting in two runs.

Lake Weir (5-10, 4-6) will take on Mount Dora Bible in the next round of the tournament on Thursday at 7 p.m.

CRESTVIEW 4, WEST PORT 2. At Crestview, Derek Mahlman took the loss for the Wolf Pack, giving up two runs (one earned) and striking out five in a solid six-inning effort at the Northwest Florida Powerade Classic.

Brian Adams went 2-for-3, Mike Barnes hit a triple and Russell Serna was 1-for-1 with an RBI for West Port (4-11), which faces Choctaw today at 6 p.m. in the next round of the Powerade Classic.
