

## **ROCKETS OPEN SEASON WITH SHUTOUT**

The Altamont Lutheran Rockets boys baseball team opened their season Thursday, August 11, at Altamont's Gilbert Park with a dominating performance, defeating the South Central Falcons 12-0 in a five inning game, shortened by the "ten run" rule. Klaiton Wolff and Noah Kopplin combined to limit the Falcons to only two hits, and Rockets' second baseman Christian Freezeland had three hits and four RBI to lead the Rockets' offense.

The Rockets got on the board in the bottom of the first when the Rockets' leadoff batter Brett Harmeier singled, stole second and scored on Devon Guerrettaz's double into right center. In the second, the Rockets blew the game open with six runs. Freezeland got the inning started with an infield single and a steal of second. Eric Wolff followed with a single to right and a steal of second. ALIS catcher Kaleb Whitt then singled both Freezeland and Wolff home to make it 3-0. Later in the inning, Logan Deadmond walked, stole second and scored on Klaiton Wolff's double that one-hopped the fence in center. Three consecutive walks to Guerrettaz, Adam Mayhaus and Travis Whitt forced in a run, and then Freezeland capped the rally with a two-run single to left.

With the lead 7-0, the Rockets added five more runs in the third. Kaleb Whitt started the inning by walking and courtesy runner Austin Kline stole second. Harmeier walked and Deadmond reached on an error, allowing Kline to score. Two outs later, Mayhaus' single to left center scored two, and Travis Whitt then walked before he and Mayhaus executed a double steal. Freezeland then lined his third single of the game to left, scoring both runners and making it 12-0.

On the other side, after a shaky first inning when he threw 27 pitches, walked two and hit one, Klaiton Wolff settled down and was simply unhittable. Wolff pitched four innings, allowed only two balls to be hit into play and struck out ten, including the last six batters he faced. With Kopplin pitching the fifth inning, the Rockets ended the game in spectacular fashion. A Falcons batter doubled down the left field line with two outs in the fifth and tried to stretch it into a triple. A perfectly executed relay throw by Rockets' reserve left fielder Jacob Sigg and shortstop Deadmond, though, resulted in Rockets' third baseman Guerrettaz slapping the tag on the sliding runner to end the game.

For the game, the Rockets scored 12 runs on 11 hits and committed no errors. Christian Freezeland had 3 hits and 4 RBI, while Eric Wolff had two hits including a double. Devon Guerrettaz also had two hits. Brett Harmeier, Klaiton Wolff, Adam Mayhaus and Kaleb Whitt each had one hit to round out the hit column for the Rockets. Harmeier, Mayhaus and Logan Deadmond each scored two runs. Klaiton Wolff got the win, allowing one hit and striking out ten in his four innings of work.

The Rockets are coached by Alan Whitt, Lance Freezeland and Benton White.