

ROCKETS STAY PERFECT WITH WIN OVER DIETERICH

An August 30, 13-3 victory over visiting Dieterich kept the Altamont Lutheran boys' baseball team perfect on the season, extending their record to 12 wins and 0 losses. Although Rockets' starting pitcher Klaiton Wolff was blanking the Dieterich batters, striking out 7 of the first 9 batters he faced, the Rockets' offense took a while to get untracked.

Brett Harmeier led off the bottom of the first by blasting a triple into the gap in right center, and Christian Freezeland drove Harmeier home with a line single to left to make it 1-0 in favor of ALIS. But after Freezeland's steal of second, the middle of the Rockets' lineup struggled with Maroons' starting pitcher Paul Thoele's offerings, popping up twice before Travis Whitt's line drive to short ended the inning. In the second, Adam Mayhaus scored from second on Logan Deadmond's ground ball to second to make it 2-0, and then a walk to Eric Wolff and consecutive singles by Harmeier and Freezeland made it 3-0.

Leading off the third, Devon Guerrettaz's shot to center nearly knocked the Maroons' centerfielder off his feet and Guerrettaz coasted into third with a triple. Running aggressively on Noah Kopplin's ground ball to short, courtesy runner Austin Kline slid underneath the tag at the plate to make it 4-1. But one run per inning was seemingly all the Rockets could muster off of Thoele. Deadmond singled and scored in the fourth to make it 5-1.

A Rockets error in the fifth opened the door for two unearned runs to cross the plate for Dieterich to make the score 5-3. ALIS second baseman Freezeland knocked down a two-out line drive off the bat of Trais Niemerg, throwing Niemerg out at first and saving two runs to close out the inning. But the Rockets responded immediately to the Maroon threat, putting three of their own on the board in the bottom half of the inning. Guerrettaz singled to score Klaiton Wolff, who had reached on an error, and after Whitt sacrificed him to second, Kline, again running for catcher Guerrettaz, scored on Kopplin's single into left center. Mayhaus' drive to right was caught by the Dieterich fielder, but Deadmond's hard hit single through the middle scored pinch-runner Kaleb Whitt to make it 8-3 through 5 innings.

Klaiton Wolff's night on the mound was over after five innings. By striking out 12 of the 21 batters he faced, Wolff's pitch count was getting high, and so Rockets' head coach Alan Whitt called on Guerrettaz in relief. After allowing the first two batters to reach, Guerrettaz struck out two and got the final out of the sixth himself by covering first and taking a flip from first baseman Travis Whitt.

The Rockets then closed out the game with a flourish. Harmeier took a rare walk to lead off the inning, stole second and then went to third on a wild pitch. Freezeland singled for the third time in the game to score Harmeier, and then stole second for the third time as well. Klaiton Wolff then launched a towering drive to center than came inches from leaving the park, instead caroming off the top of the fence, scoring Freezeland. Wolff then scored on Guerrettaz's third hit of the game. Travis Whitt's single to left moved

courtesy runner Kline to third, and Kline then scored on Kaleb Whitt's infield ground out. With Mayhaus at the plate, Travis Whitt ended the game by coaxing the Maroons' catcher to attempt a pickoff of him at third. Whitt then broke for the plate and stole home to make the score 13-3 in favor of ALIS, and invoking the ten run rule.

Devon Guerrettaz and Christian Freezeland each had three hits and two runs batted in for the Rockets. Logan Deadmond and Brett Harmeier had two hits each, and Klaiton Wolff, Travis Whitt, Noah Kopplin and Adam Mayhaus each added a hit. On the mound, Klaiton Wolff improved to 4-0 on the season, allowing three runs (all unearned) in five innings of work on one hit and three walks while striking out twelve.

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