



OPENING DAY VICTORY! BULLDOGS 12, REDS 2



(CENTRAL PARK WEST, SKOKIE - Saturday, April 26) The Bulldogs opened the 2003 Season by defeating the Edgebrook-Sauganash Reds 12-2 in a six-inning game shortened by rule on Saturday, April 26th. J.Berry was the winning pitcher with five innings of two-hit ball.

D.Schwartz scored the first 2003 Bulldog run in the bottom of the first inning after advancing to first on a dropped third strike. J.Amato advanced Schwartz to third with a single and was brought home on Berry's base hit. Amato and Berry scored on J.Cowen's low-rise double to left field. Cowen advanced to third after L.Hellman beat out an infield hit. C.Mathew joined Cowen and Hellman to load the bases when hit by a pitch, but all three were stranded. The Bulldogs led 3-0 at the end of one inning.

Berry was touched for an unearned run in the top of the second when Weaver of the Reds walked, stole second and third and trotted home on the errant throw to third base.

S.Solter led off the Bulldogs' second with a solid base hit. With two out Amato kept the Bulldog inning alive with a double. With men on second and third Berry connected on an 0-1 pitch for a double that drove in Solter and Amato. Cowen knocked in Berry with a screaming line drive double to center. The Bulldogs led 6-1 at the end of two innings.

Berry mowed down the Reds 1-2-3 in the top of the third. Losing pitcher Richmond of the Reds returned the favor by mowing down the Bulldogs 1-2-3 in the bottom of the third.

Pitcher Berry held the Reds scoreless in the top of the fourth but saw his no-hitter evaporate when O'Brien of the Reds hit a sharp grounder to third that struck the base and handcuffed the third baseman.

In the Bulldog half of the fourth four more runs crossed the plate. M.Jakob led off the inning with a walk but was rubbed out on a fielder's choice when Solter tapped a ball to the pitcher. J.Vazquez kept the rally alive with a one-out base hit just inside the line at third. Schwartz' base hit scored Solter and moved Vazquez to third base. The Reds nearly got out of the inning when Amato's fielder's choice grounder to third erased Vazquez in a close play at the plate. However, Berry then drove in Schwartz and Amato with a towering

double to center field. Cowen closed out the scoring when his single pushed Berry home. The Bulldogs loaded the bases but could score no more. At the end of four innings the Bulldogs led 10-1.

Weaver of the Reds led off the fifth inning with a tape measure home run shot to center field. The Reds put men on second and third but could not punch through any more runs. In their half of the fifth the Bulldogs scratched out a single run when Jakob tripled with one out and then scampered home after Solter struck out and the dropped third strike forced the Reds to throw out the speedy Solter.

Mathew took over the pitching duties for the Bulldogs in the top of the sixth. He shut out the Reds aided by a liner to short that resulted in a double play when the Reds' base runner could not beat the throw from Berry at short to J.Froberg at first.

Schwartz led off the Bulldogs' sixth with a clean single and advanced to third on Amato's third hit of the day. Berry then drove in Schwartz with the winning run. The Bulldogs had won 12-2 by rule. Richmond of the Reds was saddled with the loss and deserved a kinder fate than his shaky defense provided.

Both teams elected to play out the game, so while the following events will not appear in any line scores both teams battled it out for the fun of the game.

When play resumed Cowen was plunked with a pitch to load the bases with no out. Froberg proceeded to connect on a 2-0 pitch to drive in Amato, Berry and Cowen in alphabetical order with a long double to right center field. Froberg advanced from second to third on when E.Peak also doubled. Froberg then raced home on a hard grounder by Hellman to shortstop and was robbed of a base hit by a spectacular catch and throw by the Red's shortstop. Peak scored the final Bulldog run after he had advanced to third on a stolen base and ambled home on Mathew's double.

Peak took to the Bulldog mound in the top of the seventh. The Red's scored one run on a walk followed by two stolen bases, a catcher interference call and a wild pitch. That was the final tally of the afternoon for either team as the Reds were retired on a batter's interference call and a strike out.

This was definitely a great way to start the long season!