



BULLDOGS OUTLAST PHILLIES 5 - 2 IN DARKNESS SHORTENED GAME



(CENTRAL PARK WEST, SKOKIE - Tuesday, April 29) It was a dark and rainy afternoon as the Bulldogs faced the Edgebrook-Sauganash Phillies on Tuesday, April 29th. The Bulldogs were declared the victor in a six-inning game shortened by darkness. J.Berry was the winning pitcher with six innings of four-hit ball and eight strikeouts.

The Phillies opened the scoring in the first inning. The Bulldogs threatened but could not score in the bottom of the frame.

With a light mist and the temperature falling, the Phillies were retired in order in the second inning. A Bulldog rally in the bottom of that inning was stymied when E.Peak was tossed out trying to steal third base on a close play.

A potential Philly rally in the top of the third was short circuited when D.Schwartz leaped and snared a scorching line drive to left field with one out and a runner on first. Berry's fifth strikeout ended the inning.

Neither team threatened each other in the fourth inning. As the drizzle continued, the score remained 1-0 in favor of the Phillies until the fifth inning.

In the top of the fifth the Phillies came within a foot of scoring their second run. With one out a Philly reached base on an error.

When the runner strayed too far from first base catcher J.Cowen tried to pick him off. The throw was off mark and as C.Mathew, tracked down the ball in right field, the runner raced around the bases. Fortunately, the Bulldogs had drilled on the fine art of relay throwing. Right fielder Matthew tossed cleanly to second baseman Schwartz who threw quickly to first baseman J. Froberg who fired a bullet to catcher Cowen. Cowen applied the tag as the runner slid towards home. The throw beat the runner, the tag beat the runner and a 2-9-4-3-2 putout was notched up.

The inning ended when Cowen gunned down the next batter who had singled when he attempted to steal second base.

L.Hellman led off the Bulldog fifth with a walk Mathew advanced Hellman to second with a hit. A walk to S.Solter loaded the bases. Two strikeouts later the Bulldog rally seemed over, but a walk to J.Amato forced in one run and a walk to Berry added a second run.

With two outs and the clean-up hitter, M.Jakob, at the plate a breakout inning seemed likely. Alas, the Phillies catcher spotted the

Bulldog runner had strayed too far and threw a dart to the third baseman who tagged the surprised runner out. At the end of five innings the Bulldogs led 2-1.

With spirits as damp as their uniforms, the Bulldogs took their positions in the sixth inning. The Bulldogs were further chilled as the Phillies opened the inning with a triple and a run-scoring single to knot the score at 2-2. But Bulldog pitcher Berry shut down the Phillies with three straight strikeouts.

In the bottom half of the sixth the Bulldogs repeated their fifth inning scheme by loading the bases with no outs. A walk to Jakob and Cowen and an infield hit by Peak set the table for J. Froberg.

His fielder's choice grounder to second drove in Jakob. Hellman then drove Cowen home with his fielder's choice bouncer to the second baseman. Mathew then batted in the final run of the inning with a snaking grounder that hand cuffed the second baseman whose throw to first base was bobbled and dropped. Although no Bulldog was able to hit the ball out of the infield in the inning the team scored three runs and led 5-2.

As the seventh inning began increasing darkness enveloped the field. The top of the Phillies' batting order took advantage of the gathering gloom and deteriorating weather and field conditions.

Three of the first four batters singled and scored to tie the game. The next five batters all reached base as the Bulldog defense had difficulty in throwing the slick and rain soaked baseballs hit by the Phillies. As the fifth and sixth runs of the inning crossed the plate the home plate umpire declared the game over due to darkness.

The Bulldogs tramped back through the mud to the dugout not sure of their fate. The coaches of both teams huddled around home plate umpire to sort out events.

The umpire declared that since the seventh inning had not been completed, the local rules required that score for the game revert to the score in effect at the end of the sixth inning. As a result the final score of the game became Bulldogs five, Phillies two.

The Bulldogs gathered in their dugout were happy to learn of the victory, but recognized that their opponents are a tough and tenacious team. A rematch in June should prove to be a challenge although the weather will certainly be warmer and sunset later.