2012 Moeller Varsity Baseball – Game Summaries

MOELLER 4 Ross 2

Pre-Season ranked #1 in the Cincinnati Enquirer Coaches Poll, the Moeller Crusaders defeated the Ross Rams 4-2 on a sunny, crisp Opening Day at Schuler Park. Senior Phillip Diehl started the game and pitched two innings, allowing two hits, one earned run while striking out six of the eight batters he faced. Senior Zach Williams (1-0) picked up the win, his first of the season, by pitching the last five innings giving up two hits, one earned run and striking out four. The Rams struck first scoring in the top half of the first, but Big Moe answered scoring two in the home half of the first. The big knock, a two out RBI double by Junior Cam Whitehead. The Crusaders added two more in the second. With two outs, senior Jackson Phipps coaxed a walk. Phipps stole second. Senior Ty Amann walked. Senior Ryan LeFevers promptly doubled both Phipps and Amann in to give Big Moe a three run lead, which is all that Williams needed. Williams did pitch out of a jam in the 6th when the Crusader defense struggled as Ross loaded the bases and eventually scored one run all without hitting the ball out of the infield. Big Moe begins the season 1-0 and hosts Glen Este tomorrow.

MOELLER 13 Glen Este 3

Big Moe's bats came alive in game two of the season as the Crusaders beat the Glen Este Trojans 13-3 at Schuler Park. Senior Ryan LeFevers (1-0) finally made his first start in his varsity career and earned his first varsity win as he pitched five innings, giving up seven hits, three earned runs while striking out three. Junior TJ Marklay pitched a scoreless sixth to finish the game as his little brother Tanner was pitching the last inning of the Freshman team's win. After giving up a run to the Trojans in the first - Big Moe sent thirteen batters to the plate scoring seven runs on four hits. Senior Ty Amann led the twelve hit attack on the day going 2-3 with a triple and three RBI's. Senior Nick Edwards was 2-2 with two runs scored. Senior Brad Macciocchi and junior Jimmy Rodenberg both collected a double on the day and Senior Jeff Ludwig ended the contest in dramatic fashion by hitting a two-run home run in the bottom of the sixth to give Moe a ten run lead. The Crusaders run their record to 2-0 and begin league play with the Elder Panthers tomorrow at 4PM at the University of Cincinnati as part of the Cincinnati Reds Futures High School Showcase.

Elder 12 MOELLER 2

The Elder Panthers took advantage of some shaky Moeller defense and defeated the Crusaders 12-2 at University of Cincinnati's Marge Schott Stadium. The opener of GCL league play was part of the Cincinnati Reds Future Stars Showcase. With one run already in for Moe in the top of the first and bases loaded with one out - the Crusaders were looking to give the knockout blow but Elder's starting pitcher settled down to retire the next two Crusader batters to end the rally. Elder answered with two runs in the home half of the first and held Moe at bay the rest of the game. Senior Brian Burkhart (0-1) suffered his first loss of the young season. Big Moe looks to get back on track with a league game Friday at St. X.

MOELLER 9 St. Xavier 5

Big Moe Varsity won in dramatic fashion at St. X today on Friday. Down 5-1 going to the top of the seventh, the Crusaders rallied. Junior Cameron Whitehead led off the seventh with a walk (walks will haunt!). A fielder's choice force out at second put the Bombers two outs away from a GCL win. Junior Spencer Iacovone was HBP - runners at first and second. St. X makes a pitching change. Big Moe makes a change of their own sending senior Lincoln Reed into the game to pinch hit and he promptly hit the first pitch he saw - a 3-Run Home Run that made the score 5-4 St. X. The Crusaders were not done yet. Senior Ty Amann started a new rally by singling to left. Senior Ryan LeFevers walked and sophomore Zack Shannon singled home Amann to tie the score. After another walk to load the bases, senior Jordan Simpson capped the inning off win Grand style - a Grand Slam home run to give Big Moe a 9-5 lead. Senior John Tanner started the game for Moe pitching five innings, giving up three hits and four runs-three earned - while striking out four. Senior John Hakemoller (1-0) pitched the sixth inning and picked up his first win of the season. Senior Phillip Diehl pitched a scoreless seventh inning. Other hitting leaders on the day; Amann was 3-4 with a double and two runs scored. Senior Brad Macciocchi was 2-3 with a double. Senior Nick Edwards added a triple. Moe stands at 3-1 overall and 1-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 10 De LaSalle, IL 2

Big Moe took to the road to play in the Noblesville, IN Classic. In the first game, Moe played against the Meteors of De LaSalle, a ranked team out of the south side of Chicago. Senior Zach Williams (2-0) made his first official start of the year and he pitched a gem. Williams went six innings, scattering six hits, giving up two earned runs while striking out nine! Junior Mason Eckley pitched the seventh and struck out all three batters he faced. Hitting leaders on the day were senior Jordan Simpson who was 2-4 with a double. Senior Nick Edwards was 2-4 and scored three times. Seniors Stephen Hackman and Jackson Phipps each added a double and sophomore Zack Shannon was 2-5 with a HR, two runs scored and two RBI's. Big Moe runs its record to 4-1; 1-1 in the GCL.

Homestead, IN 11 MOELLER 4

In the nightcap and championship game of the Miller Classic, Big Moe ran into Fort Wayne powerhouse Homestead High School and their hot bats losing 11-4. Homestead pounded out fourteen hits against Moeller pitching but only seven of their eleven runs were earned as Moe's defense proved to be their Achilles heel once again. Senior Ryan LeFevers (1-1) made his second start of the year and suffered his first loss. The Moeller bats were as cold as the evening air as they only had four hits in the game and junior Cam Whitehead had two of them. Senior Ty Amann had a triple and Sophomore Riley Mahan added a double for the Crusaders. Big Moe ends the week at 4-2; 1-1 in GCL play.

MOELLER 10, LaSalle 1

Big Moe continued their winning ways in the GCL downing the LaSalle Lancers on a sun-drenched day at Schuler Park. Senior Brian Burkhart (1-1) evened up his record on the year with a dominant performance on the mound. After giving up a leadoff double to his cousin and an unearned run to the Lancers in the first, Burkhart only gave up one more hit the rest of the game. Officially Burkhart pitched seven innings, giving up two hits, one unearned run while striking out eight Lancer hitters. Trailing the Lancers going to the home half of the first, the Crusaders answered with three runs. Big Moe added six more runs in the third and one more for good measure in the fifth. Senior Ryan LeFevers led the offense going 2-4 with a run scored, an RBI and two stolen bases on the day. Junior Cameron Whitehead had a double and two RBI's. Moe run its record to 5-2; 2-1 in GCL play.

MOELLER 6, Carroll 2

The Moeller Crusaders added another GCL win vs. the Dayton Carroll Patriots, 6-2. With the rain coming down to open the top of the first, it appeared the game could be a wash out. Senior Zach Williams (3-0) collected his third win of the season as he pitched like it was sunny and 80 degrees out. Williams threw five innings, gave up two hits and two unearned runs. It was Double Trouble for the Crusaders as they hit five doubles on the day. Senior Lincoln Reed had two, senior Brad Macciocchi had one and sophomores Zack Shannon and Riley Mahan each collected one apiece as well. Shannon and Mahan were both 2-3 on the day with Mahan collecting three RBI's. Reed was 2-2, scored three times and knocked in two. Big Moe runs its record to 6-2; 3-1 in the GCL. The Crusaders play a DH on Saturday vs. Dayton Fairmont and Strongsville, who's #1 in the State of Ohio! First pitch against Fairmont at 11 AM with the game against Strongsville to immediately follow.

Fairmont 11, **MOELLER 10** 9 innings

On a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon, the Moeller Crusaders entertained the Kettering Fairmont Firebirds and the Strongsville Mustangs. It proved to be a wild, crazy day of baseball as the first game went extras and the second game featured a walk-off win vs. the #1 team in the state of Ohio according to the Prep Baseball Report. To game #1 where senior Phillip Diehl made the start—Diehl didn't have his best stuff on the day going four innings, giving up eight hits, six runs (five earned). Junior Mason Eckley relieved Diehl and didn't do much better as Eckley lived high in the zone and paid for it giving up five hits, four runs-all earned. Senior John Hakemoller (1-1) pitched the final two frames and suffered his first loss of the season. After a scoreless first the Firebirds scored five runs in the second. Moe answered with two in the home half of the third. Fairmont added a run in the fourth but Moe scored four of their own in the fourth to tie the game at six. Fairmont answered scoring four more runs in the top of the fifth while Moe scored one in the home half of the fifth and three more in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game once again. The Firebirds added the final run in the top of the ninth and that was that. The Crusaders had plenty of chances to end the game but credit the Firebird pitchers who threw just enough to hang on. All in all both teams combined for twenty-one runs on twenty-seven hits. Senior Ty Amann led the Crusader offense going 2-4 with two triples. Sophomore Zach Shannon also went 2-4 with a triple. Senior Jordan Simpson was 2-5 with two RBI's. Senior Brad Macciocchi was 2-4. Senior Ryan LeFevers came off the bench to go 2-3. Senior Jackson Phipps, junior Spencer Iacovone and sophomore Riley Mahan all had a double on the day. Moe's record stands at 6-3; 3-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 6, Strongsville 5

In the nightcap, senior lefty John Tanner took the mound to pitch against Prep Baseball Report's #1 team in the state of Ohio, the Strongsville Mustangs. Tanner pitched well but was the victim of some mental and physical errors by the Crusader defense. Tanner's line; five innings pitched, scattering seven hits and giving up five runs (only two earned runs). Senior Brian Burkhart (2-1) took the mound after Tanner and picked up the win as he held the Mustangs scoreless in his two innings of work. Fast forward to the home half of the seventh. With Big Moe down 5-2 and not showing any life at the plate to that point, sophomore Riley Mahan led off reaching first on a strikeout, wild pitch. Senior Ty Amann doubled putting runners at second and third and nobody out. Senior Ryan LeFevers grounded out to the right side scoring Mahan and advancing Amann to third. Junior Brian Butz then singled scoring Amann to make it a 5-4 game. After a fly out, sophomore Zach Shannon stepped up to the plate and with two strikes on him, hit a triple to the right center gap that scored Butz to tie the game. Junior Cameron Whitehead was up next and hit a line drive that cleared the center fielder's head to score Shannon and give Big Moe a 6-5 win! Amann continued to swing a hot bat going 2-3 with that aforementioned double. LeFevers was 2-4 with two RBI's and junior Spencer Iacovone was 2-3. The win improved the Crusader's record to 7-3; 3-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 5 McNicholas 1

In a rare day-night doubleheader, the Moeller Crusaders first made the trip to McNicholas High School, downing the Rockets 5-1. Senior Ryan LeFevers (2-1) got back on the winning track pitching four innings, giving up two hits and one run. Sophomore Zach Shannon made his varsity debut on the mound pitching the last three innings to earn the save. Shannon did not allow a hit and struck out four. The Crusaders pounded out eleven hits on the day and were led by junior Spencer Iacovone who went 3-3 with a HR, a double, a single and a walkJunior Justin Wampler was 2-4 and junior Brian Butz was 2-2 with a double. Seniors Ty Amann and Nick Edwards also added doubles on the day. Big Moe runs its record to 8-3 and remains 3-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 11 Grosse Pointe South 1

In the nightcap, Big Moe continued their winning ways by beating up on Michigan powerhouse Grosse Pointe South Blue Devils 11-1. Senior Zach Williams (4-0) continues to shine on the mound pitching his fourth win in four outings. Williams pitched six innings, giving up four hits, one run while striking out nine. The Crusaders scored in every inning but the fifth while pounding out ten hits against the Blue Devil pitching. Junior Spencer Iacovone continued to swing the hot bat going 2-2 with two doubles and three RBI's. Sophomore Zach Shannon was 2-4 with a HR and a double. Senior Jordan Simpson was 2-2 and juniors Cameron Whitehead and Nick Meece added a double a piece to the Moeller offense. Moe improves to 9-3; 3-1 in the GCL. Big Moe takes to the road as they head to Atlanta, GA for its next three games.

MOELLER 13, Loganville (GA) 2

This year's spring trip took the Moeller Crusaders to Atlanta, Georgia. After a day spent in Athens, GA on the University of Georgia's campus, Big Moe headed to Loganville High School to take on the Red Devils in front of a packed house. Senior Brian Burkhart (3-1) was dominant on the mound pitching a complete game going five innings, scattering four hits, two unearned runs while striking out eight. Going to the third inning tied at two with a runner on, two outs and two strikes, senior Brad Macciocchi came up big connecting on a home run to give Moe a 4-2 lead. The Crusaders ended up scoring seven more runs in the third inning to pretty much shut the door on the Red Devils. Macciocchi finished the day going 3-4 with four RBI's. Seniors Ryan LeFevers and Jordan Simpson were both 2-3. Senior Nick Edwards was 2-4, scoring twice and knocking in two. Senior Ty Amann and Sophomore Riley Mahan both had a double on the night. Moe improved to 10-3; 3-1 in the GCL.

Pope (GA) 5, **MOELLER 4**

On Thursday, the Big Moe caravan travelled to national powerhouse Pope High School. The story on this night was the Crusaders inability to come up with the big knock as they stranded eleven. Ten Crusaders were walked, two were hit by pitches, and Moe swiped nine bags on the night and they still couldn't cash in. Senior John Tanner continues to confuse hitters while running into tough luck. Tanner pitched five innings, gave up five hits, three runs-two earned while striking out ten Greyhound batters. Senior John Hakemoller relieved Tanner and took the loss on the night. Moe's record stands at 10-4; 3-1 in the GCL.

MOELLER 6. Sprayberry (GA) 0

After an off day on Friday which saw the Crusaders practice at Georgia Tech University as well as take in the Atlanta Braves home opener, Big Moe headed to Sprayberry High School on Saturday to complete its southern swing. Once again, Moeller pitching dominated the headlines. Senior Phillip Diehl (1-0) pitched a complete game shutout going seven innings, giving up four hits, no runs while striking out eight Yellow Jacket hitters. Senior Ryan LeFevers was 2-4 with two runs scored while knocking in three. Senior Stephen Hackman was 2-4. Junior Nick Meece added a triple and sophomore Riley Mahan collected three RBI's on the day. Big Moe heads back north with an 11-4 record with GCL play starting up again this week.

MOELLER 7, Alter 2

Fresh off their spring trip to Atlanta, the Moeller Crusaders got back into GCL league play on the road once again travelling north to take on the Alter Knights. Strong starting pitching continued as senior Zach Williams (5-0) earned his fifth victory pitching six shutout innings while yielding only two hits while striking out twelve! Williams pitched his way out of a dicey situation in the Alter sixth inning. With a 6-0 lead Williams struck out the leadoff batter. The next batter singled. Then a Crusader error put runners on first and second. Williams then walked the cleanup hitter to load the bases. With bases loaded Williams buckled down and struck out the next two Knight hitters to shut down the rally. The Crusader offense continued to garner extra base hits. Senior Ty Amann was 3-4 with a 3B. Junior Spencer Iacovone was 2-4 with a double, home run and two RBI's. Senior Ryan LeFevers was 2-4 with a home run, two runs scored and two RBI's. Senior Nick Edwards also homered on the day and drove in two. Senior Jordan Simpson and sophomore Riley Mahan each added a double in the game. Big Moe runs its record to 12-4 and 4-1 in the GCL. League play continues tomorrow as the Crusaders take to the road once again to take on CJ.

MOELLER 5, Chaminade-Julienne 1

The road warriors continued their winning ways as Big Moe made the trek for the second straight day to the Dayton area to take on the CJ Eagles in a GCL league game. Senior John Tanner (1-0) finally got his first win of the season as he continued to pitch great baseball going six innings, giving up three hits, one unearned run while striking out seven. Sophomore Zack Shannon came in to pitch the seventh striking out two of the three batters he faced. Junior Spencer Iacovone continues to swing the hot bat going 2-3 with two doubles on the day. Iacovone is now hitting an even .500, with a .906 slugging average and a .652 on-base percentage. Senior Jordan Simpson delivered the big hit of the game as Moe was clinging to a 2-1 lead in the fifth inning when he singled sharply up the middle scoring two and giving Tanner a little breathing room. Seniors Nick Edwards and Ryan LeFevers were both 2-4 on the day while senior Brad Macciocchi and the aforementioned Shannon each collected a double on the day. The Crusaders now stand at 13-4 and 5-1 in the GCL.