

Our Athletes

Under the weather

Legion wins 2 out of 3 between storms

By JOHN GORALSKI
SPORTS WRITER

On Wednesday, June 24, Jim Gugliotti stood beneath the rain on the Southington High School baseball field and breathed a sigh of relief. The drops were coming down harder, but Southington Post 72 was able to get in a full American Legion baseball game. So far this summer season, that's been more than half of the battle.

Legion Baseball

"We're four games behind right now, and it seems like we've played in the rain every game," Gugliotti said. "Last night, we played in the rain up at Winsted, and we threw the ball away three times because it was wet. Tonight, we lucked out, but it's been tough."

Southington won two out of three games last week to improve to 3-4 overall as the locals keep looking ahead for sunny skies and clear sailing.

Costly errors in Winsted

On Tuesday, June 22, Southington nearly escaped a bases-loaded jam in the fifth inning with the score knotted, 3-3. Winsted had just one hit, but they had somehow loaded the bases.

A bases-clearing double ended Southington's hopes as they fell, 6-3.

"They only got three hits against [Jon] Sheehan all night, but they were two doubles with the bases loaded and a bunt for a base hit," said Gugliotti. "Six runs

June 23	Winsted 6
	Southington 3
June 24	Southington 5
	Burlington 2
June 27	Southington 6
	Unionville 5

on three hits? That's just timely hitting."

Southington led twice, but couldn't overcome Winsted's fifth inning rally. R.J. Ingriselli drove in Mark Cole (2-for-4, run, RBI) for a 1-0 lead in the third inning, but Winsted answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Nolan Rickard and James Michanczyk scored to regain the lead in the top of the fourth, but Winsted scored four unanswered runs to get the win.

Baserunning beats Burlington

Justin Sieracki drew a one-out walk in the fifth inning, advanced on two bunts, and scored on a fielders choice to give the locals a 2-1 lead. On Wednesday, June 23, Southington added three runs in the next inning, but Sieracki manufactured the game-winning score without getting a hit. "They left their infield back, so if we hit a ground ball to the middle of the infield, we're scoring. They gave it to us, and that was huge," said

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Jim Gugliotti,
American Legion
baseball coach

Gugliotti. "We stayed aggressive on the base paths, but that's what we're going to do. We're going to keep running until they prove that we can't."

James Michanczyk surrendered a double, a walk, and two fielders' choice plays to open the game with a 1-0 deficit, but finished with just one run in seven innings to get the win. Nolan Rickard had an RBI double. Jordan Lamson and Ingriselli scored, and Southington held on for a 5-2 win.

"This was another good, wooden-bat game," said Gugliotti. "Our bats finally came alive late in the game, but it wasn't too late. Sieracki had a huge hit. Nolan



JOHN GORALSKI

James Michanczyk pitched a complete victory over Burlington on June 23.

Rickard had a huge hit, and James pitched a great game."

Unionville comeback

On Saturday, June 27, Unionville took a 5-0 lead to chase Mark Cole from the mound, but that just made the Southington batters angry.

"We brought in Jon Sheehan, and we scratched back," said

Gugliotti. "The bats came through for us. We made it 5-2, and we scored four in the final inning."

Michanczyk went 2-for-4 to lead the offense with two RBI and a walk-off single in the seventh inning. Southington collected six runs with six hits. Sheehan pitched two scoreless innings, and Southington came back for a 6-5 victory.

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