

*****BULLETIN EXTRA*****

Sunday, June 28, 2009

SWEPT AWAY!

St. B. skid hits 3 as St. Paul takes two, 11-6 and 10-9.

By Herb Salley

St. Bernardine's came into last night's game fresh off their first loss of the season to New Psalmist and ready to regroup against one of their old rivals, St. Paul Baptist. In 2005, St. Paul defeated St. B. by the score of 6-5 in a tightly played championship game thriller. Since then, the two teams have played each other a total of 7 times with St. Paul winning 4 of the 7. No other team in the league has beaten St. B. as many times as St. Paul in the last four years and last night's games added to that win total.

In game one, the St. B. bats were cold as the team could not generate any offense despite scoring 3 quick runs in the first inning. St. Paul came up with 3 runs in the third inning then another 4 runs in the fourth inning highlighted by a 3 run homer by "Malcolm" that broke the game open for St. Paul and eventually winning the game by the final score of 11-6.

As usual, Mike Beverly lead the team going 3 for 3 with two runs scored and an RBI and Mike Owens drove in 2 runs as well. Ron Alston and David Randall had 2 hits each for St. B. in the loss.

St. B.'s record drops to 9 wins and 2 losses on the season.

In game two, it was inconsistent hitting, base running mistakes and defensive errors that cost St. B. this game. In the first inning, the team sent eleven batters to the plate, scoring 5 runs however, the team didn't score another run until the 5th inning when the team scored 2 runs to take a 7-6 lead. St. Paul batted in the bottom of the 5th inning and scored 4 runs, capitalizing on 2 St. B errors and took a 10-7 lead. St. B. chipped away with a run in the 6th inning then added another run in the 7th.

In that 7th inning, the team was poised to tie up the game and possibly take the lead in the game as Ron Alston smacked an extra base hit to left center then tried to stretch a triple into a home run and was thrown out at home plate. Final score: St. Paul 10, St. B. 9. St. B's record dips to 9 wins and 3 losses on the year.

This was the third loss in a row for St. B. and it marked the first time the team lost 3 games in a row since April of 2007 and the double header sweep was the first time the team had been swept since that same year when guess who - that's right St. Paul pulled off the feat.

St. B's all time leading run producer Mike Beverly had his consecutive hits streak snapped in the second game of the double header when he popped up to the pitcher in the second inning. Beverly had connected for an incredible 16 straight hits and had not recorded an out since his first game of the season.