

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

SPECIAL PLAYOFF EDITION -

Saturday, July 25, 2009

TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS !

*Roy Mack's slam highlights 9-run 6th inning as St. B.
pummels Morning Star in playoff opener, 14-8.*

By Herb Salley

On a hot, steamy Saturday afternoon in Druid Hill Park, St. B. took the field against Morning Star Baptist Church of Catonsville with a 15-3 regular season record and the number two seed in the playoffs. The team went out with one thing in mind and that's "take care of business" and that's exactly what they did as they defeated MSBC by the final score of 14-8.

The game was close and competitive for the first 5 innings of play as the teams saw-sawed back and forth with Morning Star taking a 6-5 lead heading to the bottom of the 6th inning. Mike Owens lead off the bottom of the 6th with a base hit then Mike Campbell drew a walk sending Owens to third base and Campbell to second base as a result of a CCSL/ASA rule which allows batters and base runners to take an extra base when a male batter walks and a female hits behind the male. Hot hitting Tiffany Dingle then stroked a 2-run single to left field sending home Owens and Campbell. Ron Alston reached on an outfield error sending Dingle to third base. Torey Richardson sent a sacrifice fly to left field scoring Dingle and Alston scored on another miscue by Morning Star. Sierra Hines was sent to the plate to pinch hit for Roxanne Hillman and delivered a clutch base hit to the shortstop. Debbie Green came in to pinch run for Hines. David Randall and Mike Beverly each collected base hits to load the bases for

Roy Mack. Mack wasted very little time and sent a screaming drive it to right field, clearing the bases for a grand slam. "Pole" tripled then scored on Mike Owens' second hit of the inning. St. B. headed to the top of the 7th inning with the game well in hand taking a commanding 14-6 lead. Morning Star scored 2 runs in the 7th but their rally was cut short. Final score, St. B. 14, MSBC 8.

Mack's slam in the 6th inning gave him 3 hits and 6 RBI's for the game and "Pole" drove in 3 runs for the team as well. David Randall, Mike Owens and sizzling hot Mike Beverly also had 3 hits each. Beverly flied out to right center field in the 5th inning making only the second out of his torrid hitting season and his averaged "dropped" from a ridiculous .963 to a spicy .935 on the year.

Special praise goes out to steady team veteran Mike Owens who thwarted a MSBC rally in the top half of the 3rd inning. MSBC had the bases loaded when "Blade" sent a drive to Owens' left in left center field. Having no regard for his own body, he chased down the drive then laid out with full extension, dived and snared the ball, leaving everyone in the park amazed and excited, even MSBC. Clearly, this was the turning point of the game and one of the greatest catches in team history. I'm quite sure if TV cameras from ESPN were there, they would have made his play #1 on their "Top Plays" list.

St. B. will take on 2007 CCSL champion New Shiloh Baptist church Friday night at 7 pm on field #2 by the Mansion House.