

Perry troubles Tigers in league loss

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A combination of speed, pitching and small ball helped the visiting Perry Bluejays score a 7-3 victory over Carroll in a Raccoon River Conference match-up Wednesday night.

Mike Long's team had just one extra-base hit, but legged out five infield singles, stole three bases and executed two squeeze plays to score enough runs to win.

"That's what we've been doing here for the past 29 years,"

said Long of his team's offensive tactics. "We have some really fast kids that can get down the line, and we can create a lot of problems for the other team if those guys can get on base."

Alex Hoffman picked up the win for Perry, allowing just one earned run on four hits, while striking out six over seven innings.

Up 1-0, shortstop Quinn Adair led off the top of the third with an infield single off of Carroll starter Tyler Tuel. Sam Stetzel followed that up with a bloop single to center field. The pair advanced to second and third on a sacrifice bunt by second baseman Trevor Stevens. Hoffman then took advantage of a chance to help his own cause by blasting a single into left field that scored both runners. Two batters later, Hoffman scored when catcher Justin Efkamp's shallow fly ball fell in for a hit.

After scoring another run in the fourth, Perry struck for two more in the fifth.

Relief pitcher Kyle Christensen hit designated hitter Donny Lansing with the first pitch he threw, and then allowed him to advance to second on a balk. After a strike out of Efkamp, Christensen elected to go to third with Travis Anderson's comebacker, but Lansing beat the throw giving Perry runners at first and third with one out. Tim Mitchell successfully executed his

second squeeze bunt of the night on the next pitch, scoring Lansing.

Later in the inning, with the bases loaded, Christensen walked Stetzel to make the game 7-0.

After Addison Patrick's leadoff single in the first, Hoffman held Carroll without a hit until Marc Hempstead opened the home half of the sixth with an infield single. Patrick followed with a four-pitch walk to give the Tigers multiple base runners for the first time in the game.

Ben Gossett grounded into what looked to be a sure double play ball, but after he stepped on second to record the first out, the short-stop Adair threw the ball away allowing Hempstead to score and Gossett to advance to second. Gossett scored when Adair made his second error of the inning on a ground ball by Matt Fleshner two batters later.

With two out and one on, Greg Schulz's lazy fly ball looked like it would end the inning, but Perry right fielder Diamond Martinez lost the ball in the lights and the easy out turned into an rbi double. Hoffman avoided further damage when he got Nick Behm to pop out to short-stop to end the inning.

Carroll got a single from Hempstead in the seventh, but couldn't manage to get anything else going.

Hoffman led the Blue Jay offense, which finished with 10 hits, by going 2 for 3

with a double and two rbi. Stetzel and Adair each had two hits as well.

"Things just went their way tonight," said Carroll head coach Dirk Troutman. "The first three innings were really critical because they got on top and it forced us to press a little bit. We just didn't get the bounces tonight."