



Senior Chad Siuda bends down with his glove in order to field a ball hit by the Lakota team.

Sophomore Jim Rolf catches the ball and prepares to tag the Lakota player out as he slides into second base.



Junior catcher Casey Marquette and senior pitcher Greg Sears talk over their strategy for the next Lakota batter.



DISAPPOINTED AND HOPEFUL

Boys varsity baseball finished the season with a 10-15 record and 5-9 in the Greater Miami

Conference. Coach Chris Shrimpton felt the season was not as successful as it could have been. He had these comments, "One day we would get good pitching and no hitting and defense. Another day we would get good hitting and defense and poor pitching."

Even with all the ups and downs, the team did have some highlights. They defeated number one Hamilton, number three Oak Hills, and number nine Anderson. Ryan Blackmore, Zach Frank, Chris Jones, Andy Kulesza, Casey Marquette, Greg Sears, and John Williams all contributed this year to the team winning.

Shrimpton commented, "At the beginning I thought that we could play with any team in the city and at times we did. The problem though was that we just could not defeat the teams that I felt we could beat."

Senior Blackmore said, "Throughout the season we had our ups and downs. But we showed people we could do it by beating the number one team. I just hope next year the younger players have as much fun as I did."

Teamwork, desire, and the ability to improve were all qualities found on the JV baseball team. Coach Paul Melnick believes that these qualities are what aided the boys to their successful 14-7 record.

The ability to improve was a major factor in both hitting and fielding. Over the course of the season the team was able to greatly improve their

hitting and limit the amount of fielding errors committed per game. "We played well beyond my expectations," said Melnick, "and I was very pleased with our performance."

Melnick also attributed individual improvement, as well as overall team improvement, to the leadership of older experienced players. "The inexperience of a lot of our players was a problem at the beginning of the season," said Melnick, "we were able to overcome it mainly because of our older players." Only three juniors started this year, considerably less than the rest of the league. "Our opponents started from seven to eight juniors, and that made our youth a real factor," commented Melnick.

Pitcher Chris Vaught replied, "The older guys were a lot of help," said Vaught. "Whenever we were having a bad game, they would be able to pump us up and keep us going."

Another important aspect was teamwork. "We were able to work together very well," said Melnick. An example of this teamwork was the comeback win over Hamilton. Sycamore was down almost the entire game and came back to win in the last few innings.

Melnick believed that despite the youth and inexperience of the team, by the end of the season, they showed their true ability. "Overall, I think that even though we were young, we were a better team than last year," said Melnick, "the desire that we lacked last year was there, and that helped us a lot."

by Megan Harmon and Scott Webb

