

April 7: Mansfield Edges AHS Freshmen 2-1

In a memorable pitching duel featuring complete games by Mansfield's Matt Michalski (who gave up four hits, a walk, and struck out 12) and the Colts' Lawrence Brandt (who gave up four hits, no walks, and struck out 11), the Colts came up one play short falling 2-1. After a rare caught stealing to open the game, the next 5 Colts batters went down on strikes. Meanwhile, after a leadoff double led to an unearned run in the first, Lawrence retired 12 straight including striking out the side in the fourth as part of a stretch of six strikeouts in seven batters. The Colts pulled even in the third when left fielder Jordan Miller got the first of his two hits, later scoring on a wild pitch. Mansfield threatened in the bottom of the 5th with a one out double, but a pop-up to third baseman Clayton Johnson, and a strikeout stranded the go ahead runner at third. The Colts had a scoring opportunity in the 6th after a lead-off single by DH Jake Landrith, who got as far as third, but the Colts could not get the clutch hit needed to grab the lead. In the bottom of the 7th Mansfield led off with a well-placed blooper that fell between several fielders. The Colts then dodged a bullet as the ensuing throw on a steal attempt sailed into center, but Tyler Rice (who also had a hit and walk) gunned out the runner at third. The Colts were unable to earn the tie, as a two-base error and a single gave Mansfield a hard fought 2-1 walk-off win over the beaten, but unbroken Colts.