

### **March 5: Colts Late Surge Runs Out the Clock on Irving 10-5 in Lamar Tournament Opener**

The Colts grabbed the opening lead for the first time this season as Kelsie Dancer almost single-handedly manufactured a run. With one out he walked and stole second. With two outs Daniil Lysenko hit a hard smash to third that was gloved cleanly and should have been the third out, but Kelsie rounding third distracted the third-baseman, and no play was made. He then scored on a passed ball. Irving's fine pitcher then kept the Colts off-balance and off the scoreboard: the Colts loaded the bases with one out in the second (walk, single, walk by Jake Landrith, Gavin Hawbaker, and Brennan Kelly), but couldn't score. Meanwhile, Irving plated their own manufactured run in the bottom of the first and grabbed a 3-1 lead with one-out in the third off hard-luck starter Jordan Miller, who pitched well but fell victim to another erratic defensive effort by the Colts. Jeremy Cook, after plunking the first batter he faced to load the bases, struck out the next two to keep the Colts within striking distance. And strike they did in the 4<sup>th</sup>, plating 4 runs to grab a 5-3 lead. After Jake got a hit and Trevor Phillips drew a walk, Gavin hit a hard grounder to short, which appeared to force Trevor at second, but the eagle-eyed ump saw the throw pull the second baseman off the bag, while Gavin got down the line in a hurry and everyone was safe. An RBI ground-out by Brennan, singles by Austin and Kelsie rounded out the scoring. The Colts lead was erased in the bottom of the frame, as Irving used a dropped third strike and a triple to pull even. Two fine defensive plays by Lawrence Brandt, subbing for Daniil at first helped limit the damage. The Colts regained the lead 6-5 in the 5<sup>th</sup>: Duane Hughes got the first of his two hits and two runs scored to open the 5<sup>th</sup>, and Jake who had a big day TWO (two hits, two walks, two RBI's, and too many fine defensive plays to count easily) helped keep the rally going. Jeremy provided the elusive shutdown inning, and the Colts came up in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> with 20 minutes left in the game and a slim one-run lead. The freshman salted the game away by batting out the clock, as this tournament featured a hard two hour time limit (somewhat unfair according to one of the parents, who was also heard to complain "How can it be a strike if the catcher falls over?"). The rally featured a hit by Austin, a HBP by Kelsie, a walk by Lawrence, and consecutive hits by Duane, Jake, and Clayton before time expired (even though Irving was the home team!). Allegedly, the score reverts to the last complete inning, so the official final score may be 6-5 instead of 10-5, but in any case it's a win.