

Colts Drop Opener 6-4

Grand Prairie Feb. 22, 2010. The Arlington Colts JV team's comeback attempt came up short as they dropped a 6-4 decision on a bitterly cold day in Grand Prairie. The Colts went down in order in the first, as did the Gophers, as starting pitcher Lawrence Brandt had a 10 pitch inning including two strikeouts sandwiched around a routine grounder fielded by second baseman Matt Barber. Brandt led off the top of the 2nd with a single, and pinch-runner Tyler Rice came around to score the season's first run on a clutch two-out single by Barber, who later scored on a single by first baseman Jeff Queary. The lead was short-lived. The disastrous bottom of the second started oddly with a bunt single by the clean-up hitter. After a walk and an infield fly to shortstop Eddie Lozano, a single to left cut the Colts lead in half. It looked like the Colts might get out of it, when with two outs, the number nine hitter started 0-2, but he battled back to draw a key walk to load the bases. A looper into the gap just eluded the grasp of the diving center fielder Kelsie Dancer, and the Gophers grabbed a lead they would not relinquish. Two more runs scored on an infield error, pushing their lead to 5-2. Neither team scored in the third or fourth, with reliever Ashby Dean befuddling the Gophers in four quality innings of relief. The Colts rallied in the fifth with the help of some shoddy defense: Brad Johnson, who had replaced starting catcher Clayton Johnson, reached on an error, left fielder Austin McKinney's single was followed by an error by the pitcher as Dancer reached and B. Johnson scored. In one of the key plays of the game McKinney was called out at third, so that when Dancer scored on 3B/1B Adam Noonkester's single (after stealing second and third), the Colts were still a run shy at 5-4. The Colts seemed to tie the score in the 6th when Duane Hughes, the right fielder, singled, stole second, went to third on a ground out, and slid in ahead of the tag on a sacrifice fly, but the umpire, perhaps too close to the play, ruled that the tag on the shoulder beat the hand across the plate. The Gophers tacked on an insurance run in the bottom of the 6th, and the Colts last gasp rally fell short in the 7th, when they put two on with two out, but did not score.