

## Colts Level Flower Mound 9-1

**AHS March 11, 2010.** The Arlington Colts JV team earned a spot in the Arlington High spring tournament championship game, run-ruling Flower Mound 9-1. Flower Mound grabbed a 1-0 lead when the leadoff hitter reached on an error, stole second, and scored on a routine fly ball to center field when the over-enthusiastic fielder chucked the ball into the Flower Mound dugout. Some discussion ensued as to whether the runner was entitled home or not, with the umpires prevailing as usual. In the bottom of the second, the Colts used "little ball" to manufacture a five run inning. After Matt Juarez walked and Adam Noonkester reached on a fielder's choice with everybody safe (not a good choice), Duane Hughes pushed a perfect bunt between the pitcher and third to load the bases. Speedy Tyler Rice fouled off a couple bunt attempts before dragging a bunt down the first base line, and beating it out for a hit to even the score at 1-1. Coach Buechele finding a winning strategy, called for a third straight bunt, with Eddie Lozano executing the sacrifice. After Brad Johnson walked, Austin McKinney said enough with the bunting already, and doubled in two runs, with the fifth run of the inning scoring on pinch hitter Trevor Phillips deep sacrifice fly. Starting pitcher Jeff Queary (who raised his record to a perfect 3-0) gave up a hit and two walks in the third, but escaped the bases loaded jam by striking out the Jaguars clean-up hitter. In the bottom of the third, Hughes came up with two outs and none on, and, with not a bunt sign in sight, doubled into the gap. Then an unusual play happened: the pitcher was called for a balk, but pitched anyway, and the batter Rice laced a clean single to right. Unfortunately no one was aware of Rule 8.05(m): *The pitcher delivers the pitch from Set Position without coming to a stop. PENALTY: The ball is dead, and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out, unless the batter reaches first on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base, in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk.* It didn't matter as Eddie Lozano laced a two run single to center field scoring Hughes and Rice (who eventually walked), extending the Colts lead to 7-1. In the top of the fourth reliever Omar Frias rendered the Jaguars toothless, striking out the side. In the bottom of the frame Matt Barber and Lawrence Brandt singled and Juarez walked to load the bases with one out. Adam Noonkester hit a grounder up the middle, but Flower Mound botched the potential double play ball as Juarez had gotten a good jump. While they argued about the call, Brandt alertly scampered home with the Colts ninth run, as the Colts walked off the field wither their second straight bottom-of-the-fourth walk-off run rule.