

Colts Blank Cedar Hill 12-0

Irving March 6, 2010. The Arlington Colts JV team won their final pool play game in the Irving tournament behind Matt Barber's three-hit shutout. The game did not start out auspiciously as the Colts went down in order, the first two batters by strike-outs. Cedar Hill's leadoff hitter smashed a hard line drive to left, thinking he had a stand-up double—he was sadly mistaken, as left-fielder Austin McKinney fired a strike to shortstop Eddie Lozano who relayed it to second baseman Duane Hughes for the 7-6-4 putout. Matt Juarez then crushed the first pitch in the top of the second over the left field wall—the Colts first long ball of the season. They loaded the bases with one out on a hit batter, error, and bunt but did not add to their lead. The Longhorns threatened to even the score after a leadoff double, but a comebacker and a couple of strikeouts helped the Colts cling to a 1-0 lead through two innings. Arlington then blew the game open in the third, with another of their patented bat-around innings. Barber walked, Adam Noonkester reached on an error, Juarez walked, then Lawrence Brandt smoked a single to right center and Duane Hughes followed it with a double to left giving the Colts a 5-0 lead and still nobody out. After a strikeout, Eddie Lozano walked and Tyler Rice singled and stole second, scoring on McKinney's single. The 8-0 lead seemed quite safe, and Barber made sure there was no letup cruising through the third with a couple more strikeouts (four in a row!). Although the game was out of reach, there was still a bit of drama left. In the top of the fourth Matt Juarez continued his torrid hitting with a single to left, and stole second. The new Cedar Hill pitcher then unveiled a nasty breaking ball striking out Brandt, who took off for first when the ball hit the ground. The catcher looked Juarez back to the bag, at which point it was too late to get the speedy runner out at first. Hughes, the next batter, also whiffed on a curve in the dirt and also took off for first as the runners advanced. Now with none out and first occupied, he was eventually (correctly) declared out (Rule 6.05c), but the umps did not know what to do with the other runners, mistakenly thinking this was a dead ball situation. Many coaches and fans offered friendly suggestions, but in the end the Umps left Juarez at third (correct), but since Coach had sent Brandt back to first, they just decided to leave him there, I guess as some sort of compromise. Either it was a dead ball with both runners forced to return to their original base or not in which they are free to advance at their own risk (correct), baseball does not allow compromises! So essentially Brandt stole second, then stole first, and then after time was back in he stole second again, with Juarez scoring on the last play, so all's well that ends well. In the 5th the Colts tacked on the final three runs with a rally featuring consecutive singles by Juarez (who now has 6 hits, 4 walks and a sacrifice in his three games with the team!), Brandt, and pinch hitter Jake Landrith. Two Longhorns reached base in the fifth, their first inning with multiple runners, but Barber finished off the 12-0 whitewash with his seventh strikeout.