

Timely hits propel Wave

By JASON TUREK
Sports Reporter

The New Milford baseball team's bats were bound to wake up sometime this season, and Tuesday's game against Brookfield was that time.

The Green Wave pounded out 12 hits in a 9-3 victory over the Bobcats in New Milford.

"We finally put some hits together," said New Milford coach John Wrenn. "It feels good to break through so we can build our confidence for the rest of the season."

The non-league match was originally scheduled to be in Brookfield, but the field was unplayable, giving the Wave a home game.

After neither team could put up a run over the first two innings, New Milford (3-9) came through in the top of the third off Brookfield starting pitcher Jack Mitten.

With one out, Pat Hendricks got on with an infield single and Tony Patane reached on a fielding error. Ryan Maddern came up and hit a shot over right fielder Kade Treibt for a triple that plated Hendricks and Patane to get the Wave in the scoring column. Ron Newkirk came up next and hit a sacrifice fly to center to score Maddern and make the score 3-0.

"It was good to get hits with guys on base," said Wrenn. "Some of the kids try pressing too hard in those situations, but they came through in a big way today."

Brookfield (6-6), which had five hits in the first three innings and 10 for the entire game, made costly mistakes on the base paths that cost them scoring chances and the opportunity to put runs on the scoreboard.

"We had a lot of hits in the game, but we missed a lot of signs and ran ourselves out of scoring chances," said Bobcats coach Dennis Petrino. "New Milford was an upbeat team and we thought we could show up and win, but we can't do that against teams in our conference."

New Milford broke the game open in the fifth, as it brought nine batters to the plate scoring five runs, including five consecutive hits by C.J. Perrone, Gene Pitcher, Andy Sturm, Steve Duda, and Hendricks.

New Milford tacked on a run in the top of the sixth while Brookfield scored three runs in the bottom half of the inning.

Chris Tremaglio got things started with a single and stole second. Casey Hegarty hit a ground ball down the first base line and Tremaglio came all the



Photographs by LaRue Gaborard

Ryan Maddern scores a run in the third inning against Brookfield. Maddern got on base by clubbing a triple to right, and trotted home on Ron Newkirk's sacrifice fly.

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way around for Brookfield's first run when there was no one covering home plate.

Brett Balzi and Billy Thompson hit singles and Steve Harding hit a double to left, scoring Jared Levine, who ran for Balzi.

Thompson scored on a sacrifice fly by Chris Val to end the scoring.

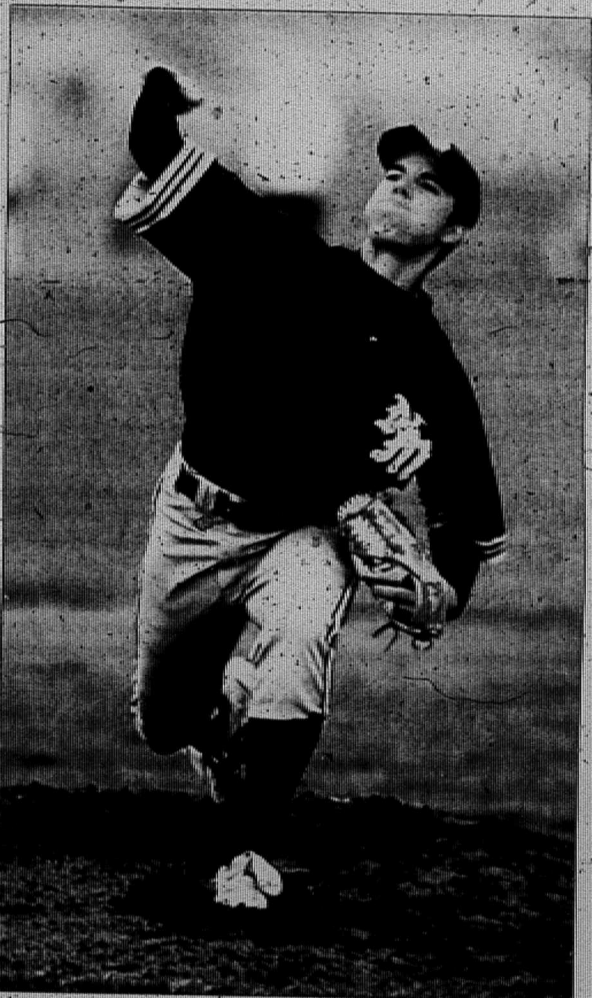
"The upside to today's game was that the subs came in and did an excellent job," said Petrino. "They got some hits which led to three runs being scored."

Green Wave pitcher Perrone earned the victory, tossing six innings, striking out three and walking only one.

"C.J. has a great curveball and when he mixes that up well with his fastball, he keeps the batters honest," said Wrenn. "When he throws the curveball for strikes, he can be very effective."

The Wave took two losses earlier in the week. New Milford dropped a 6-3 decision to Joel Barlow last Friday, then lost to Weston, 3-2 on Monday.

The Wave and Bobcats will play once more this season on May 19 in a league game.



The Wave's C.J. Perrone delivers to the plate against Brookfield on Tuesday. Perrone and the Wave got the win, 9-3.