exciting win over VA Tech proves team’s TALENT despite young players

The baseball team faced many obstacles over the season. Despite the challenge of having many young players, the team came together to play their best and ended their season with a 16-9 record in non-conference games. The Tribe also earned a five-game winning streak, further showing the team’s unity.

The team knew that they had to mature in order to repeat last year’s success because of the number of new freshman playing. “We lost a number of great players to graduation and the MLB draft, and with the 10 freshmen on the team, we are a very young team that demands contributions from every member of the team,” Tyler Stampone said. Although they initially struggled, they managed to work together to perfect their game. “Early on it seemed like our hitting, pitching and defense were clicking at separate times. When we figured out how to put them all together in a single game we were a very tough team to beat,” Derrick Osteen said.

Senior and freshman alike came together to help score a win against Northeastern. The game took place at Boston in early April. The competition went into extra innings and ended with a score of 5-4 for the Tribe in the 12th inning. Senior Jeremy Neustifter started off pitching the first seven innings. He was able to strike out a season high of 11 batters. The game was finished by freshman Matt Davenport, who also broke records for his pitching.

Evidence of their teamwork could be seen in their win against Virginia Tech as well, a favorite memory for many team members. The team scored two runs at the top of the second inning. The scores went back and forth with the Tribe down until the top of the ninth inning. In the ninth inning, the team turned their game around and scored 6 runs to win the game 14-10. “We were able to shut down the Hokies in the bottom of the 9th to come away with perhaps our biggest win of the season,” Osteen said.

Kelly Harmon

Originally from Colorado, senior pitcher Jeremy Neustifter prepares to release the ball to his batting opponent. Neustifter appeared in all 16 games of the season.

Photos courtesy of Sports Information

Making a quick pass to second base, senior infielder Lanny Stanford tries to get a runner out. Stanford made the Tribe Baseball all-time record for the most sacrifice hits with 30 through his entire William & Mary career.

Watching the ball until it makes contact with the bat, senior Rob Nickle swings for a base hit. Nickle made 5th for the most home runs in Tribe baseball history with 33 as a career total.

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