

Baseball

Troy-Tipp



Tippecanoe catcher B.J. Donathan throws out a Troy runner at first Saturday.

■ **CONTINUED FROM A7** Cahill said. "We had that walk, an error, a walk and another error that basically gave us that game. It's really unfortunate for Troy."

"We did a lot of things wrong that whole game. It wasn't just that last inning," Troy coach Ty Welker said. "We didn't hit the ball well all day, and it was tough for us to take the loss in the last inning like we did."

The story early on was Tippecanoe pitcher Ben Hughes. He worked ahead in the count for most of the second inning — and had his breaking stuff was working — striking out the side to end the inning quickly. Then in the third, it was more of the same by the Tipp sophomore, fanning three more batters, although he did allow a Troy baserunner to reach on a passed ball third-strike call. The Trojans, though, failed to cash in.

Spanning from the second to the beginning of the fourth, Hughes struck out seven out of eight Troy hitters he faced. He ended the game with eight Ks while scattering only three hits in six innings of work.

"Ben Hughes pitched well," Cahill said. "His curveball was on, he had it moving, and that led to some balls getting by our catcher. He didn't throw that many wild pitches last year. But that was what led them to get their runs. We both got our runs that way. But overall, I thought Ben pitched really well."

"He's probably one of the best, if not the best, pitchers we have faced all year," Welker said. "He set the pace. He threw strikes, placed the ball well and dictated what we did. He threw a heck of a game."

Both teams, though, had their chances to score, but neither succeeded early on. Tipp had runners on the corners in the top of the third and failed to produce, while Troy stranded a runner in scoring position in the bottom of the inning.

The Red Devils left Hughes on the base path in the top of the fourth. Then in the bottom of the fourth, the Trojans missed out on another opportunity after Nathan Helke doubled with one out.

But what was a defensive showcase turned south in the fifth inning as both teams were able to manufacture runs. Tipp took a 1-0 lead in the top half when Robbins made his way around the bases.



Troy catcher Ian Nadolny takes a throw as a Tippecanoe runs slides past Saturday at Market Street Field.

After being walked to start the inning, Donathan laid a sacrifice bunt to move him to second, then back-to-back passed balls brought Robbins around to score.

And it turned out both teams were in the giving mood.

The Trojans took their 2-1 lead in the bottom of the inning. Thomas Harvey singled, which was followed by Devin Blakely drawing a walk. Tipp's Hughes threw two balls that got by catcher Donathan, leading Harvey across the plate to tie the score and bringing Blakely into scoring position. Devon Alexander hit a shallow fly to right, which scored the runner and gave the Trojans the lead.

Nick Antonides came on in relief in the sixth, and prior to the rally in the seventh he sizzled, recording five straight outs against Tipp. He recorded the loss on the hill.

"He threw a heck of a sixth inning, but he just didn't look as effective going into the seventh," Welker said. "I don't know. He got those two guys out to open the inning, then he didn't go after the next guy and walked him. With two outs, that's not good. Then we start making errors and it all goes down hill. We have to develop that quality of closing games out."

"I thought all of their guys threw well," Cahill said. "He (Antonides) dominated us in the sixth. Then we get the walk, and catch those breaks in the seventh."

Even after Tipp roared back, Troy still had a chance, putting the tying runner on second in the bottom of the seventh. Tipp shortstop Cameron Johnson robbed Ian Nadolny of a hit to start the inning, then Jordan Price popped out. Troy tried to rally with two outs as Harvey trotted to the plate and reached base on an error. Another Tipp error put Blakely on and moved Harvey to third. Blakely stole second, but the win wasn't meant to be



Troy's Dylan Cascaden is hit by a pitch Saturday against Tippecanoe.

as Alexander hit a liner to center, which was caught by Hadden to end the game, giving Langdon the save in relief.

"Tipp is always a solid baseball team, that's why we schedule them," Welker said. "Give them credit. With two outs (in the seventh), they could have folded, but they continued to battle, continued to scrap and believed they were going to get those runners in."

The Red Devils were 8-6 winners over the West Carrollton Pirates in their second game. Cole Quillen was the winning pitcher, improving to 1-1 on the year. Johnson came on to get the save. Brad Bruns, Muse and Langdon all doubled in the win.

"That was a sloppy game again," Cahill said. "It was just a sloppy day in general for us. We scored 12 runs, and I think we had just two RBIs."

Tipp (6-4) plays at Tecumseh on Monday.

Troy also took down the winless West Carrollton team in its final game, 7-1. Cody Fuller had five strikeouts compared to only two walks, allowing only two hits in the win-

ning effort.

"Cody threw a nice game," Welker said. "He gave up those two hits, one of them being a homer when we were up 7-0 in the sixth. Other than that, he pitched well. He let the defense play behind him and was in control all game. He was a bright spot for us."

Helke, who finished off the game on the mound, finished 2 for 4 with an RBI. Ben Langdon had a hit, a run scored and two RBIs for the Trojans, which improve to 8-2 on the year.

The Trojans are back in action Monday, hosting Greenville.

Tipp000 010 3 — 4 3 2
Troy000 020 0 — 2 3 3
Hughes, Z. Langdon (7) and Donathan, B. Langdon, Kendall (4), Antonides (6) and Nadolny. WP — Hughes. LP — Antonides. Save — Langdon. 2B — Helke (T).

Tipp015 110 0 — 8 9 5
WC001 130 1 — 6 5 4
Quillen, Johnson and Gilliam and Donathan (7). Merker, Shelton (7) and Woss. WP — Quillen. LP — Merker. 2B — Langdon (T), Muse (T), Bruns (T), Schultz (WC). **Records:** Tippecanoe 6-4.

WC000 001 0 — 1 3 3
Troy023 200 x — 7 7 3
Whalen, Bowman (4) and Wof. Fuller, Helke (7) and Magoteaux and Nadolny (7). 2B — Schultz (WC). HR — Schultz (WC). **Records:** WC 0-8. Troy 8-2.

Track and Field

Track

■ **CONTINUED FROM A7** did pretty well in the 110s, all of the relay teams ran well — we were really happy."

Brady Davis was fourth in the discus (123-7). Tumej was fourth in the high jump (5-10). The 4x800 team of Kurt Hamlin, Kyle Hamlin, Eric Landes and Josh Burrowes was sixth (9:12.67). Bain was sixth in the 100 (11.9 seconds).

Bethel's girls were 13th with 12 points. Shawnee (91) won on the girls side.

Marieke Van haaren was fifth in the 3,200 (13:21.54).

Maddie Ellerbrock was sixth in the high jump (4-6) and eighth in the 400 (1:06.22). The 4x100 team was sixth (57.05 seconds), the 4x400 team was sixth (3:52.32) and 4x200 team was eighth (2:03.27).

• **Anna Invitational ANNA** — Troy Christian's boys were ninth (18 points) and the girls 11th (eight) at the Anna Invitational Saturday.

For the boys, Kyle Klingler was third in the 1,600 (4:43.21). The 4x800 team of Kyle Klingler, Mark Dillahunt, Caleb Tanner and Josh Williams was fourth (8:59.7). Brennan Klingler was seventh in the 100 (12.26 seconds). Tyler Shinall was seventh in the long jump (18-6.5).

For the girls, Morgan Rench was eighth in the 400 (1:11.61). The 4x400 team of Rench, Morgan Haddad, Maddie Rench and Lauren Brown was fifth (4:36.62), the 4x100 team was seventh (58.14 seconds) and the 4x200 team was eighth (2:02.27).

Golf



Peter Hanson salutes the gallery as he walks up to the 18th green during the third round of the Masters Saturday in Augusta, Ga.

Masters

■ **CONTINUED FROM A7** knew what it was without looking — Mickelson draining an eagle putt on the 13th hole, raising the putter with his right arm and slamming down his left fist to celebrate along with 15,000 of his best friends.

"I'm standing in the middle of the fairway and I feel him breathing down my neck a little bit," Hanson said.

Hanson followed with an approach into 2 feet for birdie, a 15-foot putt from the fringe on the 15th, a 30-foot birdie putt over the ridge on the 17th and one last birdie at the 18th with a shot that stopped inside 3 feet from the cup. He was at 9-under 207.

"I've been watching this tournament since I was a young kid, and seeing Freddie Couples and the guys go and shoot 30 and 31 on the back nine is something you just dream about," Hanson said.

Mickelson shot 30 on the back and signed for a 66, putting him in the final group at the Masters for the fourth time in the last nine years. Lefty won the last three times he was in that spot.

"I love it here, and I love nothing more than being in the last group on Sunday at the Masters," Mickelson said. "It's the great thing in professional golf."

Mickelson gave the leaderboard some star power when so many others faded or, in the case of Tiger Woods, never came close to getting there. Woods now has gone 26 consecutive holes on the back nine at Augusta

without a birdie. He had to settle for a 72 and was 12 shots behind, his largest 54-hole deficit ever at the Masters.

But he wasn't alone. U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy, who started the day one shot out of the lead, made double bogey from the trees on the first hole and it only got worse from there. He had three 6s on his card and went out in 42, finishing with a 77 that left him 10 shots behind. He played with Sergio Garcia, who shot 75. Neither made a birdie until No. 12, and they hugged each other on the green to celebrate.

Fred Couples, at 52 the oldest player atop the leaderboard going into the weekend at Augusta, bogeyed his first two holes and tried to stay in the game. He wound up with a 75 and was seven shots behind.

A win would give Mickelson his fourth green jacket, same as Woods and Arnold Palmer.

But this is far from a two-man race.

Former British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen rode his sweet swing to a 69 and was only two shots behind. Bubba Watson birdied the last hole for a 70 and was three shots back, followed by Matt Kuchar, who joined Mickelson as the first players in 13 years to birdie the 18th hole each of the first three rounds.

The group at 4-under 212 included Lee Westwood (72) and Harrington, who shot 68 and summed up what awaits today.

College Football

Buckeyes' line play still a work in progress

COLUMBUS (AP) — Urban Meyer made his name in coaching circles because of his hurry-up, no-huddle, fast-paced offense.

So far through his first few spring practices at Ohio State, he's unhappy because the players aren't keeping up with his system.

He said it's been a recurring problem at every place he's worked.

"Oh yeah. At Bowling

Green, Florida and Utah, absolutely," he said.

Meyer is quick to say the Buckeyes are getting better during spring practices, but acknowledges they have been slow to pick up nuances of the offense in particular. He's also displeased that the line play has been lacking on both sides of the ball, with the exception of a few players.

It's a tough transition for players to learn to play fast all the time.

"I don't care really if you make a mistake, just do it full speed," he said. "That's my biggest issue right now. Yeah, terminology's different, of course. You're going to make mistakes, guys might go the wrong way. But make it go so fast that it's OK. We'll fix that."

With two weeks remaining before the annual intrasquad scrimmage at Ohio Stadium, there's a lot left to do.

"You see flashes of it

when everything's going right and it's incredible," offensive lineman Jack Mewhort said. "You just have to trust in coach Meyer. Everybody's just really buying in. We're going to have to learn, definitely, but every day is a progression and we're looking forward to getting better."

The defense has been miles ahead of the offense so far. That's usually the case in the spring, but even

more this season with an entirely new offense, terminology, sets and plays, not to mention a new blend of coaches and players.

One of those new coaches, co-coordinator and offensive line coach Ed Warinner, looks forward to the day that his players have the timing down right and can just concentrate on the play.

"Sometimes when players are thinking about plays their technique isn't

as sound and their mind is concentrating on footwork, hand placement, eye placement, body position, things like that," he said. "As they get more comfortable with the plays and don't have to think what their assignments are, then they're up at the ball thinking about what their technique is on this play and not what their assignment is. When you make that transition, that's when they'll get really good."