

Mariners Slip by Agates in Pitching Classic

by John Sandstrom

Agate Coach Tim Bott described it as “an old fashioned pitching duel”. Mariner Coach Ward Wallin called it “a memorable game I won’t soon forget”. It is hard to imagine a better game than the one last Friday afternoon between two North Shore rivals. In dramatic fashion, the Mariners scored in the bottom of the seventh to gain a 1-0 win. The Agates had runners thrown out at home and third base and other than that, neither team had many chances during the game.

Mariner Ero Wallin and Agate Brjen Jones, who are close friends, each threw complete, masterful games. In the bottom of the 7th, Mariner Ryder McMillen reached base on a fielder’s choice and flew home from first on a Luc Stadler double down the left field line. Stadler said he wasn’t looking for a particular pitch, just something he could drive. “I hit it hard, but thought we would end up with runners on second and third. When I rounded first, I saw Ryder flying home. It was really exciting.”

Coach Bott said that Jones pitched a great game.

“He knows that to be successful he needs to change speeds and he does that very well. He keeps opposing batters off balance.” Junior Clark Nelson said that this year has been “amazing”. Nelson said that “The team has a new energy and, despite being young, we have proven to ourselves that we are a good team”. Sophomore Anthony Lemke stated that “So far we are beating the teams we should and playing good baseball against everyone”.

After being on the road recently, the Agates host three games this week including a rematch with the Mariners this past Wednesday and then a Thursday afternoon contest with Wrenshall.

Earlier Friday, May 6, the Mariners beat the Cook County Vikings 8-2 in Grand Marais. Eighth grader Jacob Carpenter pitched six innings to earn the win. Ryder McMillen went 3-3 and Ero Wallin was 2-4 with a home run. Wallin is leading the state in RBI and near the top of the list in both batting average and home runs.

In addition to the rematch with the Agates this



Silver Bay Mariners’ first baseman Ryan Bilben stretches for an out in last Fridays win against Two Harbors Agates. (Photo credit: Lisa Malcomb)

past Wednesday, the Mariners will have played at Northeast Range Thursday, a split double header in Ely Friday against Blackduck and face the host Timberwolves at 6PM.

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