

PYTHONS OPEN WITH A THRILLER

The Pentecost Pythons men’s softball team opened their 2018 season with a seven inning thriller on a beautiful night for softball Sunday night. The Pythons jumped on DLB pitching early, scoring four runs in the top half of the first inning before assuming their defensive positions. As the game progressed, the Pythons clung to a 7 – 7 draw until the sixth inning, when DLB scored the final two runs in the Pythons’ season opening 9 – 7 loss.

Offensively, the Pythons were led by Kyle Jacob and Tom Hasko, who each has two-hit performances, combining for four singles and a Jacob base on balls. Luke Jacob drove in three runs, including the Pythons’ first runs of the season with a seeing-eye double in the top of the first inning, followed by a third inning sacrifice fly. Jeff Hansen, Paul Maller and Mike Mueller each singled, with Maller driving in one run, and free agent acquisition Tim Barthel recorded his first Python hit with a fourth inning single. Dan Hasko, Dan Schutz, and Jon Cooper all reached base on errors and Dave Van Ruden touched first base with a fielder’s choice, with Schutz and Van Ruden each driving in a run.

Defensively, the Pythons looked in mid-season form. Jeff Hansen started the defensive heroics when he ran down a long fly ball in the left-center field gap in the first inning. Hansen continued his all-around solid play later in the game when he hit shortstop and cut-off man Kyle Jacob with a frozen rope from left center field, followed by a strike from Jacob to Paul Maller at the plate, who framed the strike and applied the tag to a DLB baserunner. On the infield, the Pythons turned a Kyle Jacob to Dave Van Ruden to Dan Schutz double play and southpaw third baseman Mike Mueller made a pair of plays on smashes to the hot corner late in the game, throwing out one runner at first and snaring a line drive down the third base line, otherwise headed for the left field corner. Dan Hasko went the distance and pitched a complete game for the Pythons.

If the diamond dries, the Pythons will return to action on Sunday, May 13th, with a 5:55 PM game at Island Park.



Kyle Jacob singled twice and drew a base on balls.



Luke Jacob drove in three Python runs with a double and a sacrifice fly.



Tom Hasko went 2-3, driving in a run with a pair of singles.

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Dan Hasko | P | 0-4 |
| Kyle Jacob | SS | 2-3, BB |
| Jeff Hansen | LC | 1-3 |
| Tom Hasko | LF | 2-3, RBI |
| Luke Jacob | RC | 1-2, SF, 3 RBI |
| Dan Schutz | 1B | 0-3, RBI |
| Dave Van Ruden | DS | 0-3, RBI |
| Tim Barthel | RF | 1-3 |
| Jon Cooper | 2B | 0-3 |
| Mike Mueller | 3B | 1-3 |
| Tim Hasko | C / EH | 0-3 |
| Paul Maller | C | 1-3, RBI |



Tim Barthel recorded his first Python hit with a fourth inning single.

PYTHONS RESTART SEASON

After a pair of rainouts and a bye week during the Memorial Day weekend, the Pentecost Pythons men’s softball team finally got a chance a to take the diamond Sunday night, after a month long layoff. The Pythons jumped out to a quick 2 -1 lead in the first inning and expanded the lead to 6 – 4 after three innings. However, the Factory Cat bats took over in the fourth inning and the snakes saw their lead vanish en route to a 21 – 7 loss, dropping their season record to 0 – 2.

Despite scoring only seven runs, all twelve Python batters reached base safely at least once. Offensively, the Pythons were led by Ethan Denault, Paul Maller, Tom Hasko and Luke Jacob, who each reached base safely twice. Denault singled and doubled, Maller tripled and walked, Hasko drove in a run with a pair of singles and Jacob drove in a pair of runs with his two singles. Additional Python base runners were driven in by Tim Barthel, who drove in a pair of runs with a single, Ian McGregor, who drove in a run with another one-bagger and Dan Schutz, who singled and drove in a run with a sacrifice fly. Jeff Hansen, Dave Van Ruden, Mike Mueller and Jon Cooper rounded out the Python slugging, each contributing a single. Rob Cooper, recovering from pre-season surgery on his hand, coached third base and sent several Python base runners around third base and across the plate. Cooper is expected to make a full recovery and rejoin the Python’s batting order in the near future.

The Pythons will look to even their season record on Sunday, June 10th, with a twilight double header, beginning at 5:55 PM at Lincoln Park.



Ian McGregor drove in a run with a frist inning single



Paul Maller makes the throw from shortstop look easy after a clean pick up of a ground ball.



Second baseman Jon Cooper singled to go 1 – 3 at the plate.

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Kyle Jacob | P | 1-3, BB |
| Paul Maller | SS | 1-2, 3B, BB |
| Ian McGregor | RC | 1-3, RBI |
| Ethan Denault | LF | 2-3, 2B |
| Tom Hasko | DS / C | 2-3, RBI |
| Jeff Hansen | LC | 1-3 |
| Luke Jacob | DS | 2-3, 2 RBI |
| Tim Barthel | RF | 1-3, 2 RBI |
| Dan Schutz | 1B | 1-2, SF, RBI |
| Dave Van Ruden | C | 1-3 |
| Mike Mueller | 3B | 1-3 |
| Jon Cooper | 2B | 1-3 |



Left fielder Ethan Denault went 2 – 3, including a double.

PYTHONS EARLY LEAD SLITHERS AWAY

After yet another rain-induced layoff week, the Pentecost Pythons men's softball team had an opportunity to play softball on a beautiful night Sunday night. The Pythons got off to their typical quick start, scoring a pair of runs in the first inning and holding a 2 – 1 lead through the first three innings. However, a five run fifth inning for DLB Softball proved fatal for the Pythons, who ultimately came up on the short end of a 12 – 4 loss, dropping the Pythons' season record to 0 - 3.

The Pythons were powered offensively by Tom Hasko, Dave Wagner and Luke Jacob, who each contributed a pair of hits. Hasko drove in a run with a single and double, and Wagner and Jacob each singled twice. Kyle Jacob, Dan Hasko, Ethan Denault, Mike Mueller and Jon Cooper each also singled once apiece, with Dan Hasko driving in one run. Rob Cooper, playing his first game after coming off the injury list, returned to mid-season form as he also contributed a single. Dan Schutz drew a base on balls and Jeff Hansen and Tim Barthel each drove in a run for the Pythons.

Defensively, the Pythons showcased shortstop Kyle Jacob, who made a fantastic, Willie Mays style, over the shoulder basket catch heading into shallow left field and Mason Wagner, playing his first game as a Python, who made a pair of catches in right field.

The Pythons resume play with the first of several double headers in the coming weeks, as they play a pair of games at Roosevelt Park, beginning at 4 PM on Sunday, June 24th.



Left fielder Ethan Denault throws through cut off man Dave Van Ruden to Kyle Jacob.



Rob Cooper singled in his post-injury return to the diamond.



Dave Van Ruden prepares to take a swing.

| | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------|
| Kyle Jacob | SS / P | 1-3 |
| Dan Hasko | P / SS | 1-3, RBI |
| Tom Hasko | EH / 1B | 2-3, 2B, RBI |
| Ethan Denault | LF | 1-3 |
| Jeff Hansen | LC | 0-3, RBI |
| Dave Wagner | RC | 2-3 |
| Luke Jacob | 2B / DS | 2-3 |
| Rob Cooper | DS | 1-3 |
| Tim Barthel | C | 0-3, RBI |
| Dan Schutz | 1B | 0-1, BB |
| Dave Van Ruden | 2B / 3B | 0-2 |
| Mike Mueller | 3B | 1-2 |
| Jon Cooper | 2B | 1-2 |
| Mason Wagner | RF | 0-2 |



Shortstop Kyle Jacob makes an over the shoulder catch in front of outfielder Jeff Hansen in shallow left field.

PYTHONS WORK OVERTIME FOR VICTORY

It was an absolutely beautiful night for softball this past Sunday and the Pentecost Pythons men's softball team took advantage of it. In addition to being scheduled to play the first of several upcoming double headers, the Pythons began the evening by playing the longest game in Python history, winning 8 – 7 in the bottom of the 11th inning in walk off fashion. Official Python scorebooks were reviewed to verify that the 11 inning marathon was indeed the longest game since the Pythons began playing in 2006.

At the plate, Kyle Jacob, Luke Jacob and Tim Barthel led Python batters with three hits apiece, collectively accounting for nine singles, with Kyle Jacob and Barthel each driving in a run. Dan Schutz and Tom Hasko each contributed a pair of singles and an RBI, with Schutz also drawing a base on balls. Paul Maller, Ian McGregor, Rob Cooper, Dave Van Ruden and Mike Mueller each singled once, with Mueller driving in a pair of runs and Van Ruden also driving in a Python base runner. Dan Hasko worked the opposing pitcher for a walk and Dave Wagner drove in the remaining Python run with a fielder's choice. However, the biggest stroke of the night came when Jon Cooper led off the bottom of the 11th inning with a triple, putting the Python's winning run at third base with no outs and leadoff hitter Kyle Jacob at the plate. Jacob proceeded to drive in Cooper with a walk off single, giving the Pythons their first victory of the 2018 season.

Defensively, the Pythons turned a pair of double plays on the evening, including a comebacker to pitcher Kyle Jacob, who spun and threw to deep short Rob Cooper, who in turn completed the twin killing with his throw to first baseman Dan Schutz.



Pitcher Kyle Jacob fields a comebacker to the mound and spins to throw to.....



Deep short Rob Cooper, covering second base, who in turn spins and throws to.....



First baseman Dan Schutz, who stretches to complete the infield double play.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Kyle Jacob | P | 3-5, RBI |
| Paul Maller | LF | 1-4 |
| Dan Hasko | SS | 0-3 |
| Ian McGregor | RF | 1-4 |
| Tom Hasko | EH | 2-4, RBI |
| Dave Wagner | LC | 0-4, RBI |
| Luke Jacob | RC | 3-4 |
| Rob Cooper | DS | 1-4 |
| Tim Barthel | C | 3-4, RBI |
| Dan Schutz | 1B | 2-3, BB, RBI |
| Dave Van Ruden | RC | 1-4, RBI |
| Mike Mueller | 3B | 1-4, 2 RBI |
| Jon Cooper | 2B | 1-4, 3B |
| | | |



Second baseman Jon Cooper led off the 11th inning with a triple. Cooper scored during the following at bat, when Kyle Jacob drove him in with a walk off single.

PYTHONS END DOUBLE HEADER WITH SECOND THRILLER

In game two of the Python doubleheader, the Pythons once again thrilled fans, nearly forcing extra innings for a second straight game before succumbing to their opponent 16-13 in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Pythons were led offensively in game two by Kyle Jacob, Dave Wagner, Dave Van Ruden and Jon Cooper. The Fearsome Foursome combined to go 12 – 13 at the plate, including a triple and four RBI’s from Jacob and an RBI each from Wagner and Cooper. Paul Maller, Dan Schutz and Tim Barthel each contributed a pair of hits, with Maller doubling and driving in one run and Schutz driving in a pair of Python runners. Ian McGregor doubled and drove in a pair of runs and Dan and Tom Hasko each singled once, with Dan driving in one run. Luke Jacob drove in the final Python run with a base on balls.

Weather permitting, the Pythons will return to the diamond on Sunday, July 1st for a double header at Lockwood Park beginning at 5:00 PM.



Outfielder Dave Van Ruden had a perfect game at the plate, singling three times.

Outfielder Dave Wagner runs down a long fly ball and shows his hops as he reels in a catch in left-center field.

Catcher Tim Barthel had five hits during the course of Sunday’s double header.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Kyle Jacob | SS | 3-4, 3B, 4 RBI |
| Paul Maller | LF | 2-4, 2B, RBI |
| Dan Hasko | P | 1-4, RBI |
| Ian McGregor | RF | 1-4, 2B, 2 RBI |
| Tom Hasko | LF | 1-4 |
| Dave Wagner | LC | 3-3 |
| Luke Jacob | RC | 0-2, BB, RBI |
| Rob Cooper | DS | 0-3 |
| Tim Barthel | C | 2-3 |
| Dan Schutz | 1B | 2-3, 2 RBI |
| Dave Van Ruden | RC | 3-3, RBI |
| Mike Mueller | 3B | 0-3 |
| Jon Cooper | 2B | 3-3, RBI |
| | | |



Southpaw third baseman Mike Mueller cuts off a ball in front of shortstop Dan Hasko and prepares to throw out a batter-turned baserunner.