

Mendon Little League Baseball



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It was way back during the spring season of 2005. It could have been the kind of ending kids dream about, but instead became a legend for the history books. Rumor had it that the entire episode was jinxed by one of the coaches who tried to predict the outcome. In reality it was just part of nature. The forecast for every night in history is "light, turning to darkness" and this was no exception. Here is how it happened.

After losing almost every game for the entire season the Orioles finally came together when the playoffs started. Every team gets into the playoffs in Mendon Little League, and as the last place team they had to face the top teams if they wanted to move forward. First it was against a team with one of the best pitchers in the league. He threw fast, accurate, and was so tall he looked like a giant out there on the mound. The Orioles were behind going into the 6th inning, but they got a couple of hits and loaded the bases. Then it happened, a grand slam to put them ahead. They held on in the bottom of the 6th and won their first playoff game, and second game of the whole season.

The next game would be against the Royals, a team that won every game they played this season, going 10 – 0, usually winning by 10 runs or more. The Royals had the best pitcher in the league, another flame thrower who had given up only 2 hits all season. The game started out slow, but the Orioles finally got a couple of hits, scored a couple of runs, and kept the Royals power house from getting any runs. When the Royals put in a new pitcher at the top of the 5th the Orioles started their attack. A couple of big hits and few more runs, and by the bottom of the 6th they had a big lead. You could never count the Royals out but this time they came up empty and the Orioles had another win. It was on to round three.

The final opponent would be the Blue Jays, another team that had a poor regular season, but came around for the playoffs. It would be a Mendon Championship game played by the two last place teams, and what a game it was. The Orioles scored first to take a two run lead. The Blue Jays fought back with a couple of runs of their own. The score was tied going in to the 6th inning, fans and parents were nervous, and the players were all standing and cheering their teammates. With all the excitement of a final inning to decide who would be the champions a whole new wrinkle began to surface. It was a beautiful evening at the ball field, but it was getting dark. It was harder to see the ball for both the hitting and fielding team, but this was the championship and the game had to finish. Sure enough the Orioles scored three runs in the top half of the 6th and were beginning to feel like this was their night. The Blue Jays were the home team so they would get their chance to bat. The first batter hit a drive right at the shortstop, and although he could barely see the ball, he grabbed it and threw the batter out. The second batter hit a high pop up just beyond second base, but the second baseman had a hard time seeing the ball and it dropped in for a hit, runner at first. Next up was the Blue Jays leadoff batter who drove a single to left putting runners on first and second, one out. Their next batter hit a hard grounder to third, which the third baseman scooped up and stepped on third for the force out. There were two outs, runners still on first and second, and the meat of the lineup coming up. Their third batter hit a hard drive towards the second baseman, he bobbled the ball and the runner beat out the throw, bases loaded, two outs, and the cleanup hitter batting next. By now it was so dark the umpire wasn't sure if they could continue, but this was a championship game and they had to finish it, so they continued. After two called strikes with the batter struggling to see the pitches, the excitement was building. One pitch could be the end of a storybook season for the Orioles. As the pitch came in the batter tried to pick up the ball, swung, and connected sending the ball up into the sky. It was so high everyone lost sight of where it went. It appeared to be deep, but how could anyone tell? The fielders looked up, trying to see where the ball was. Fans looked for it, but no one could see where this ball went. And it never came down. There was no sound, no sight and nobody could tell what happened to that ball. The umpire didn't know whether to call it a home run since all the runners had rounded the bases, call it a foul ball, or call the game a tie since the home team didn't have a chance to complete their at-bat.

And then someone from the crowd yelled, "Should have voted for that light contest last year, and we would know where the ball went!" Then the rest of the fans started chanting, "We want lights! We want lights!" In the end the game was called because of darkness, it ended a tie, and they never finished the game. It was so dark they never did find that ball. That would be the year there was no champion in Mendon. As the players, coaches, parents, and fans left that night they knew they had to light up their field.

There still are no lights at the Mendon field so here we are, asking for your vote. Never again should there be no championship team in Mendon. Please help us light up our field!