

Dannenberg lifts Longwood

Bat, glove help
Lions slip past
Ward Melville

BY GREGG SARRA

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Kyle Rafferty smoked a two-out line drive and third baseman Jake Dannenberg was there to make the play. Dannenberg squeezed the drive for the final out, setting off a wild celebration.

Senior righty Jarred Vanderhoof allowed five hits, four walks and struck out six in a complete game as Longwood edged Ward Melville, 2-1, to take sole possession of first place Tuesday in a pivotal Suffolk League I baseball game.

"It was a laser and hit right at me," said Dannenberg, who also contributed two run-scoring singles. "We needed this win."

Longwood improved to 11-2 and Ward Melville fell to 9-4. The Patriots had handed the Lions their only two losses of the season.

"Vanderhoof made big pitches all game," Ward Melville coach Lou Petrucci said.

And when Vanderhoof wasn't making big pitches, the Longwood defense was there to pick him up. The defense turned double plays in the second and fourth innings to stymie Ward Melville's offense.

"I had good command and

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the defense has been phenomenal," said Vanderhoof, who is 3-0. "I'm not afraid to pitch to contact because I know the defense is there to make the plays."

Longwood took a 1-0 lead in the second. Vanderhoof and Danny Owens drew consecutive walks before Dannenberg laced a one-out RBI single to centerfield for the lead.

"[Dannenberg] was a late decision to start today and he really came through," Longwood coach Ryan McSherry said. "We've been winning with different lineups and a deep bench."

Ward Melville tied the score in the bottom of the third. Logan Doran singled with two outs and stole second. Kyle Rafferty lined a single into rightfield to tie it at 1.

"Any time you play at Ward Melville, the atmosphere is intense and heated," McSherry said. "It's great baseball. We needed to stay focused and finally beat these guys."

Longwood regained the lead in the sixth. Kyle Rausch reached on an error and moved to second on Vanderhoof's sacrifice bunt. After Ward Melville starter Max Nielsen recorded



Longwood pitcher Jarred Vanderhoof threw a complete-game victory with six strikeouts.

the seventh of his eight strikeouts, Dannenberg drilled Nielsen's first pitch into leftfield just out of the reach of shortstop Doran. Rausch scored the game-winner well ahead of the throw home.

"It was a first-pitch fastball," Dannenberg said. "It felt

good off the bat."

Vanderhoof ran into some trouble in the sixth but worked out of the jam. He walked Nielsen and Trevor Cronin lined a single to rightfield, putting runners at first and second. Matt Mauer flied to deep right allowing Nielsen to go to third.

With the tying run on third, Cronin stole second, as pinch hitter Drake Eggleston worked the count to 2-and-2. Eggleston flied to center to end the inning.

"It was a good ballgame," Petrucci said. "Longwood is a very good team. They executed a little better than we did."

Sisco's walk-off HR wins it for Southampton

Jem Sisco hit a three-run walk-off home run in the eighth to lead Southampton over Mattituck, 10-7, in Suffolk VIII baseball Tuesday.

Jayden Pepitone went 2-for-4 and hit a grand slam in the seventh to tie the score at 7. Sisco went 2-for-4 with five RBIs and Elisah Wingfield went 1-for-2 with three runs for Southampton (6-6).

Half Hollow Hills East 8, Whitman 7: Reis Henderson struck out five and allowed no earned runs in 2²/₃ innings of relief to earn the win and lead Hills East (6-6) in Suffolk III. Jacob Brigati's sacrifice fly drove in Matt Hogan in the top of the seventh to give Hills East an 8-7 lead. Hogan went 2-for-3 with three RBIs.

West Islip 2, Newfield 1: Anthony Cinquemani struck out three and allowed two hits and one run in

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five innings to lead West Islip (11-2) in Suffolk IV. Mike LaDonna earned the save after striking out five and allowing two hits in two scoreless innings of relief. He entered the game with runners on first and second and no outs in the sixth inning. West Islip took a 2-0 lead in the second inning on Bobby Di-Capua's fielder's choice.

Herricks 5, Long Beach 4: Matt Yip hit a walk-off RBI single to cap a three-run seventh inning and lead Herricks (8-6) in Nassau AA-II. Alex Banks scored on a wild pitch to cut the Long Beach lead to 4-3 and Peter Carreca walked with the bases loaded to force in the tying run for Herricks.

Garden City 6, South Side 5: Michael

Liberopoulos' walk-off sacrifice fly scored Garrett Going and capped a three-run seventh for Garden City (9-5) in Nassau A-I. Tom Reifler and Sean Leggett each added two hits.

Island Trees 5, Mineola 4: Rich Imbro had a two-run single in the bottom of the sixth to lead Island Trees (4-7) in Suffolk A-IV. Anthony Pellegrino struck out three in 3¹/₃ innings, including the final batter with the bases loaded in the seventh.

Glen Cove 6, Bellmore JFK 5: Chris Capobianco went 1-for-3 with a triple and two RBIs and Kieran Calderon went 2-for-3 with an RBI to lead Glen Cove (5-6) in Nassau A-II.

SOFTBALL

Miller Place 4, Babylon 2: Sarah Loftin went 3-for-4 and drove in Jessica Iavarone in the top of the

seventh to break a tie at 2 and lead Miller Place (9-2) in Suffolk VII. Iavarone's double earlier in the inning drove in Carissa Militano to tie the score at 2. Loftin later scored on Andreyra Weaver's groundout to cap a four-run seventh. Hannah Burton pitched a complete game, allowed six hits and struck out two.

Lindenhurst 4, Whitman 1: Shannon Gosline hit a two-run double with two outs in the top of the seventh inning to lead Lindenhurst (2-0) in Suffolk III. Skyler Cirillo tied the score at 1 in the sixth inning with an RBI double. Sam Gilbert struck out five and allowed one run and six hits in seven innings for Lindenhurst.

Kellenberg 9, Our Lady of Mercy 0: Lindsey Raimondi allowed no hits and struck out 12 in five innings to

lead Kellenberg (6-1) in CHSAA. Juliana Rigiano hit a two-run homer and Angela Farese was 2-for-3.

East Meadow 2, Calhoun 0: Stephanie Christoforatos had a two-run single with the bases loaded and two outs in the top of the second inning to lead East Meadow (10-1) in a Nassau A-I/II crossover game. Christina Loeffler earned the win, pitching seven innings, allowing no runs and one hit, striking out seven and walking six.

Lynbrook 7, Valley Stream North 3: Jessica Graepel's two-out, two-run double in the bottom of the sixth drove in Chelsea Domon and Maddy Barroso and gave Lynbrook a 5-3 lead in a Nassau ABC-III/IV crossover. Natalia Salazar went 2-for-4 with two doubles and an RBI for Lynbrook (6-4).