

Bacon brings home the win

Pitching dominated as Red Lion won the York County championship.

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Red Lion players celebrate after defeating Glen Rock,...
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One word immediately came to Red Lion manager Clint Workinger's mind when he was asked to sum up the 2008 York County Championship Series: Pitching.

On Sunday, Doug Bacon tossed seven solid innings of one-run ball for the Susquehanna League regular season champs. His performance led Red Lion to a two-game sweep of Glen Rock, the Central League regular season and playoff champions. Bacon's 3-1 victory comes on the heels of a complete game, shutout from Shawn Hedrick in Game 1 Saturday.

"Nice to have pitching," Workinger said. "We played well and represented our league today. Our last goal now is to play Monday morning at the Colonial."

The day didn't start nearly as well as it ended for Bacon.

After getting lead-off hitter Rod Anderson to ground out, Bacon began a stretch that yielded The Rock's lone run; starting with a walk to Dan Rhodes.

Fritz Allison kept things going with a single. Tim Hare drew the second walk of the inning, loading the bases. Mason Heyne reached base on a fielder's choice to third baseman Rich Leathery, who threw home for the force out.

With the bases still loaded, Ryan Poff's two-out single plated Allison and gave The Rock an early 1-0 lead. Tim Frisch's chance to extend the lead resulted in an inning-ending strikeout.

Bacon worked all seven innings, giving up just the one on eight hits with four strikeouts and three walks.

"I got the groove," Bacon said. "I had some good off-speed stuff, it seemed like they liked the curve ball for strikes, they were taking most of them."

Red Lion answered Glen Rock's early strike by manufacturing a run via patience at the plate.

With one out, Leathery, Eric McNeil and Kirk Reichard earned walks off Rock starter Matt Gonzalez.

Micah Workinger's sacrifice fly to center field tied the game, with McNeil taking third on the throw. Todd Grove stranded a pair with his inning-ending similar fly to center.

The Lions' took the lead for good after Chris Beaverson reached on a Frisch error; opening the door to a big inning that ended the game's scoring.

Leathery singled and McNeil walked, giving Reichard a shot to put the Lions ahead. Reichard battled Gonzalez to a full count before driving a pitch just over the infield, scoring Beaverson and Leathery.

"I got behind in the count and I was just looking for something to put in play hard," said Reichard. "He threw me a fastball away and I just went with it." Reichard finished the day with a triple to deep left-center in the fifth, completing a 2-for-2, two-RBI effort.

"He's done that all year for us," said Workinger. "He hits from that number four hole and that's what he's there for."

Gonzalez also went the distance for The Rock despite taking the loss.

Gonzalez battled hard for six innings, giving up three runs on six hits, while striking out three and walking four.

Bacon settled in after the first, and utilized a solid defensive effort he would later describe as "beautiful."

The Rock's final threat came in the top of the sixth inning. Tim Hake lead off with a strike out, followed by back-to-back singles from Mason Heyne and Poff.

A wild pitch during Frisch's at-bat put the Rock runners on second and third. Frisch missed another chance, again striking out and giving pinch-hitter Scott Stevens his turn at starting a rally.

Stevens walked giving Josh Heyne a turn at a crucial two-out, bases-loaded situation.

Heyne drove a sharp ground ball down the third-base line right at, and fielded cleanly by, Leathery. Leathery stepped on third, ending the inning.