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FINGER LAKES TIMES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008

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Robinson: Desire, hard work are crucial

Young players taking part in a camp at HWS listen closely

BY JOSHUA DeSAIN
FINGER LAKES TIMES

GENEVA — To play a sport like football, desire and work ethic — and the ability to apply those traits to activities away from the field — are crucial.

Syracuse University head football coach Greg Robinson delivered that message to a throng of young and aspiring football players Tuesday night at Hobart and William Smith Colleges' McCooey Field. Robinson was in town for a Junior Player Development Clinic run in conjunction with the Buffalo Bills and the NFL.

Robinson expressed the idea that the love of football motivates athletes to do well in other areas of their life.

"Well, it's very important to me. The love of the game of football is a great motivator in a lot of different things," Robinson said. "That's basically what my message was about."

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Syracuse University head football coach Greg Robinson visited Geneva Tuesday night to deliver a speech at a Junior Player Development Clinic being held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

SU coach expects upswing in 2008

BY JOSHUA DeSAIN
FINGER LAKES TIMES

GENEVA — Syracuse University head football coach Greg Robinson spent part of Tuesday night telling young athletes gathered at Hobart and William Smith Colleges to work hard.

It's the same message he has driven home to his Orange players during the offseason.

Robinson is entering his fourth year as SU coach and feels the Orange are much improved.

"I have never met a coach that didn't like his spring practices," Robinson said. "I like our team; they worked extremely hard. I think that people are going to see a marked improvement in our football program."

"I just look forward to that first game against Northwestern," Robinson

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Niagara stuns Red Wings with an 11-run ninth

By GREGORY G. McNALL
FINGER LAKES TIMES

GENEVA — The Geneva Red Wings have been the best road team in the New York Collegiate Baseball League this season.

Tuesday night, the Red Wings decided to bring a little of the road to McDonough Park.

Geneva, which has a 6-1 mark away from home, wore their black road jerseys. However, the end result was the same as it had been in all but one home game.

The latest home defeat came in a

most improbable fashion.

Niagara erupted for 11 ninth-inning runs to stun the Red Wings, 12-4.

The loss snapped Geneva's season-best four-game winning streak; three of those wins came on the road. Niagara committed six errors, one more than Geneva. All of the Red Wings' miscues came in the final two innings, when the Power scored all their runs.

"That's the thing about baseball. There's no clock. The clock can't run out and, unfortunately, that got us

NIAGARA 12, GENEVA 4

tonight," Geneva manager Dave Herbst said. "It was a slippery slope, and that's what happens in baseball. Sometimes you get the bear and sometimes the bear gets you."

Joel Blomberg delivered the key hit for Niagara, a game-tying, two-run single in the ninth. Blomberg finished with three hits and three RBIs. Kyle Cabral added three singles, a triple and three RBIs. Justin Tucker knocked in a pair of runs.

Ryan Uphouse singled twice and John Sills, Nick Spears, Matt Perry and NYCBL Western Division Player of the Week Kevin McGrath drove in runs for the Red Wings.

Geneva starter Steve Forster got no decision after pitching six shutout innings and striking out seven.

"He had a couple of tough outings his first two times out, but Steve pitched really well tonight," Herbst said. "The first couple of times out he tried to blow it by people. Tonight, he was a pitcher. He worked the counts and worked the

zone."

Forster and Niagara starter Sam Briend were in command through the first half of the game. Each team had their best chance to score in the third inning. Forster got out of a one-out, first-and-second by inducing a 4-6-3 double play.

The Red Wings got on the board with a run in the fourth. Perry and Mendiola led off with singles to put runners on the corners. McGrath followed with a grounder to short. Niagara got the force at second, but

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Forty-eight years later, Pirates beat Yankees again

By ALAN ROBINSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — For one night, it was 1960 all over again for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Jose Bautista and Ryan Doumit homered and the Pirates turned back the clock nearly a half-century, beating the New York Yankees 12-5 on Tuesday night for their first victory against them since Bill Mazeroski's historic homer decided the '60 World Series.

The Pirates had been the only team in the majors to not beat the Yankees in a regular-season game, getting outscored 49-19 while losing six in a row against them in 2005 and 2007. Until Tuesday, the Yankees hadn't played a game that counted in Pittsburgh since 1960.

"It was perfect," Jason Bay said. "We got a lot of hits, scored a lot of runs, had a great crowd. That was a blast."

Hall of Famer Mazeroski threw out the ceremonial first pitch to commemorate the

only homer to end a World Series Game 7, and the Pirates took it from there by opening a 7-1 lead in the fifth. They finished with 19 hits, nine for extra bases.

And the Pirates' first homer against the Yankees in Pittsburgh since No. 9 Mazeroski's famous shot? Bautista, who wears No. 19, hit a two-run drive in the fourth — coincidentally, Bautista's ninth homer.

Playing before only their second home sellout this season, the Pirates enjoyed the same kind of setting the Yankees experience nightly in Yankee Stadium.

"There was no special pixie dust for this one," manager John Russell said. "But it was a great night. The fans were into it, they had a lot of fun and the players fed off that."

Bay, who doubled twice, hasn't seen such PNC Park so lively since the 2006 All-Star Game. Jack Wilson, who has played all eight seasons in the ballpark, thought it may have been the best crowd he'd seen there.



Pittsburgh second baseman Freddy Sanchez tagged New York runner Bobby Abreu after Abreu stole second base.

The Associated Press

Eckerson, Bates are Players of the Year

Times Sports Staff

Penn Yan Academy junior Tim Eckerson and Waterloo sophomore Jacklyn Bates have been named Birds Eye Foods-Section Players of the Year for Finger Lakes East II baseball and softball.

Eckerson, a pitcher, posted a 4-1 record and 2.25 earned-run average this season, helping the Mustangs earn a share of their fifth consecutive league title. He pitched a no-hitter and finished with 29 strikeouts in 33 innings. At the plate, Eckerson batted .394 with five doubles and a home run.

Bates played a major role on a Waterloo squad that rolled to the league title, won the Section V Class BB championship and advanced to the state tournament. On offense, the catcher hit .435 with 13 extra-base hits, 25 RBIs and 34 runs. She led

the Indians in average, hits (40), RBIs and runs.

In its final season in the Finger Lakes High School Athletic Association, Victor swept the Finger Lakes East I Players of the Year.

Senior pitcher Eric Povero went 7-2 with a 0.78 ERA and 112 strikeouts, leading the Blue Devil baseball team to an eighth straight league crown. The University of Rhode Island-bound player also hit .395 with eight doubles, two triples, a homer and 28 RBIs.

On the softball diamond, Victor ace Erin Nargi finished a stellar career on the pitching rubber with a 20-2 season. She finished with a 0.23 ERA, 20 shutouts and 332 strikeouts, an average of 12.84 per game. Nargi issued only 19 walks.

Honeoye senior Marcus ■ See PLAYERS on Page 14

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Fresno State forces a decisive Game 3

By ERIC OLSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — Fresno State's stunning trek through the postseason has college baseball fans shaking their heads in disbelief.

The most dizzying of the Bulldogs' performances came Tuesday night, when they turned a five-run deficit against Georgia into a nine-run lead in a matter of three innings.

Fresno State's 19-10 victory forced a deciding Game 3 on Wednesday night in the College World Series finals.

"This club has a lot of heart," coach Mike Batesole said. "I keep saying that because it's true."

Now this No. 4 regional seed, which wouldn't have made the NCAA tournament without winning the Western Athletic Conference, is in position to become the fifth straight non-national seed to win the championship.

Fresno State (46-31), which opened the CWS with a 17-5 win over Rice, has scored 56 runs in six games in Omaha. That's the second-most runs in CWS history behind the 62 by Southern California in six games in 1998.

"Fresno State had the merry-go-round or circus going, whatever you want to call it," Georgia shortstop Gordon Beckham said. "They were going around the bases all night. Anybody who ever thinks they're out of it is crazy."

Fresno State had a season-high 19 hits, and its 19 runs were second to the 24 it scored at New Mexico State in April. Having staged off elimination five times in the NCAA tournament, the Bulldogs will try to do it one more time to win the school's first championship.

"This team has been going and going and going, and



The Associated Press
Georgia centerfielder Matt Cerone couldn't make a diving stab after misjudging a fly ball hit by Fresno State's Tommy Mendonca.

they're going to go for nine more innings," Batesole said.

Georgia, the No. 8 national seed, will send Nathan Moreau (4-3) to the mound against Justin Wilson (8-5) in the final.

Tommy Mendonca put Fresno State in front with his record-tying fourth homer of the CWS in his team's six-run third inning.

Fresno State scored five runs in the fourth and four more in the fifth to trip up a Georgia team that appeared on the verge of sweeping through the CWS to its second national title and first since 1990.

Fresno State wouldn't let

its incredible season end that way, not on this night.

Rather, the Bulldogs scored the most runs against a Georgia team since Tennessee's 19-12 win in the 2001 CWS — 435 games ago.

Before Tuesday, Fresno State hadn't come back from more than four runs down to win this season.

Georgia coach David Perno tried to keep a sense of humor in defeat.

"We had a tough time defending the post pattern across the middle. It's killing us," he said. "And then that late extra point."

Considering what's at stake, Perno said, it should

be easy for his players to quickly forget Game 2.

"This is for everything we've worked for, and it comes down to (Wednesday)," he said. "There is no other team I would want in our dugout other than this team. It's a one-shot deal."

Known as the "Wonderdogs" around here, Fresno State displayed more of the moxie that has carried them further than any No. 4 regional seed had gone before.

Fresno State batted around in the third inning and sent 10 to the plate in the fourth. Mendonca's three-run homer put the

Bulldogs ahead 6-5, and Steve Susdorf's two-run shot in the fifth made it 15-6.

The six-run third wasn't even Fresno State's most productive inning of the CWS. It had a seven-run outburst against Rice in the fourth inning of a 17-5 victory.

"I got lucky," Mendonca said of his blast.

Georgia, which rallied for four eighth-inning runs to Fresno State 7-6 in Game 1 of the finals, jumped on Justin Miller.

Miller, who lasted four innings and got a no-decision in a 5-3 win over North Carolina earlier in the CWS, lasted only 2¹/₃ innings.

Melrose goes from booth to bench

By FRED GOODALL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA, Fla. — Barry Melrose figures there's at least one advantage to joining a team with the worst record in hockey.



Melrose

"We finished last," he said Tuesday after giving up the broadcast booth for a shot at turning the Tampa Bay Lightning around. "The good news about coaching is I can only go up. I can only improve next year."

With a lineup that includes All-Star Vincent Lecavalier and former NHL MVP and scoring champion Martin St. Louis, it's not unreasonable to expect the team to make strides under Melrose in a hurry.

The coach will also have No. 1 draft pick Steve Stamkos to work with, and the Lightning's new owners vow to do their part by being aggressive in free agency.

"We do have a good group here, an underrated group," Melrose said of the roster he inherits from John Tortorella, who was fired after Tampa Bay missed the playoffs for the first time since 2002.

"Vinny is one of the five-best players in the world. Marty St. Louis — his passion, his speed, his courage, what a role model for Stamkos coming in. ... We've got some young defensemen that need to mature. But you look at the other defenses in the NHL, this defense is OK."

Melrose estimates he watched about 90 percent of Tampa Bay's games on TV last season. What he saw was a team that lost its zest under the hard-driving Tortorella, who led the club to its only Stanley Cup title four years ago.

The consolation for finishing a league-worst 31-42-9 was gaining the opportunity to select the talented Stamkos in last weekend's draft.

"I think what happened here is just a group that lost their passion in the second part of the season. That's why you win," Melrose said.

RED WINGS

Geneva, an NYCBL-best 6-1 on the road, falls to 1-4 in games played at McDonough Park

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couldn't complete the double play as Perry raced home.

Chris Altieri led off the fifth with a walk. Uphouse reached on a well-placed bunt single. Briend got the first out on a force at third, but Elliot walked to load the bases for Perry. A grounder to short was booted, allowing Uphouse to come home with the second run of the

game.

Forster seemed to be getting stronger with each inning. He picked up his seventh strikeout to end the sixth; five of his whiffs came in his last three innings.

Niagara pushed across an unearned run in the eighth. Blomberg reached on an error to start things, stole second, went to third on a passed ball and scored on

Tucker's double to left. Pinch-runner Geoff Ball got as far as third, but Geneva pitcher Aaron Brett stranded him there by striking out the next two batters.

Geneva upped its lead with two runs in the bottom of the eighth. McGrath began the inning with a walk and went to second on an errant pickoff attempt. Jimmy Vahalik moved

McGrath to third with a sacrifice bunt, and Spears brought him home with a long sacrifice fly to right field. After a walk to Altieri and Uphouse's second single of the game, Sills made it 4-1 with an RBI base hit.

The Power loaded the bases to start the ninth on a pair of infield singles and an error. Cabral drove home a run with another infield sin-

gle. Blomberg's clean base hit up the middle knocked in two and tied the game at 4. Joe Durham laid down a sacrifice bunt along the third-base line, but the throw sailed wide as Niagara took its first lead of the game.

The floodgates opened after that, and Geneva's winning streak soon became history.

gmcnall@flltimes.com

Big Brown trainer faces penalties

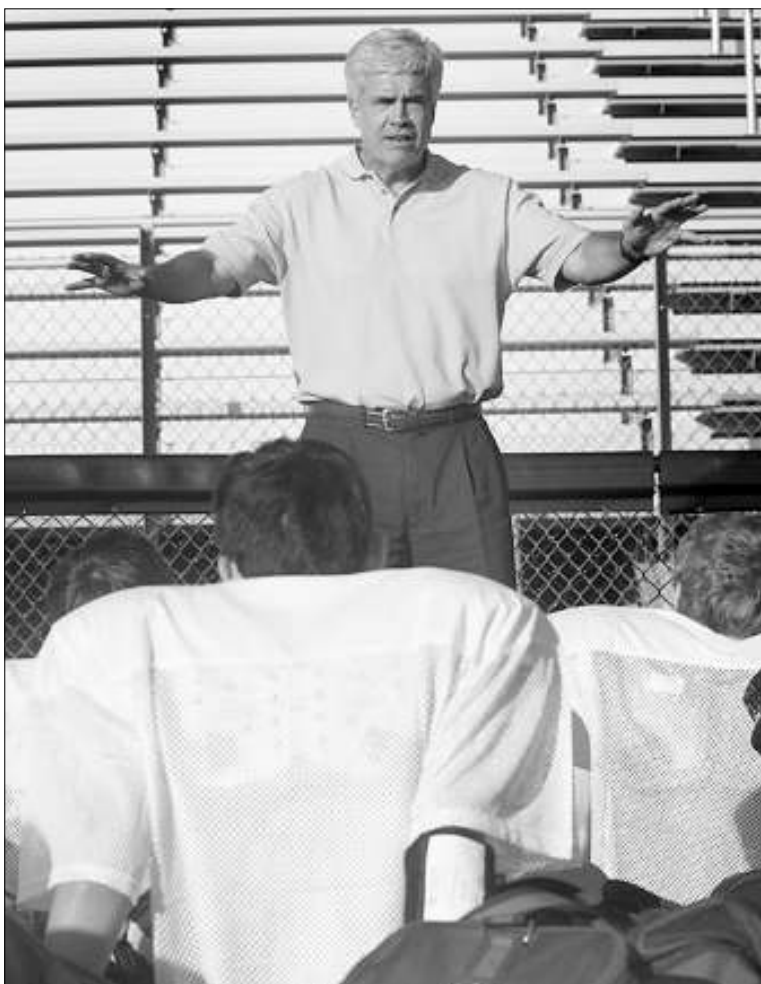
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A horse trained by Rick Dutrow tested positive for twice the allowable level of Clenbuterol, a bronchodilator that helps burn fat and promote muscle growth, *The New York Times* reported today.

The Kentucky Horse Racing Authority will issue the ruling Wednesday, suspend Dutrow for 15 days and demand the horse's owner to return the \$20,000 in purse earnings, racing officials told the newspaper. Dutrow has 10 days to appeal the penalty, which trainers often do to delay serving the suspension. The horse, Salute the Count, finished second in a \$100,000 stakes race at Churchill Downs the day before Big Brown won the Kentucky Derby.

"I was there all week and am responsible," Dutrow told *The Times*. "I use that medication on many of my horses, and only once can ever remember having a problem with it."

Clenbuterol is an approved medication in horses. The bronchodilator increases lung capacity, though it also has steroidal properties. It is illegal to administer it on race day, but states vary on the length of time beforehand that it can be administered.



Kevin Colton
Syracuse football coach Greg Robinson gestured as he spoke to campers at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

LISTEN

Robinson stresses a strong work ethic

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John Evans, an assistant football coach at St. John Fisher College and one of the camp's coordinators, was pleased that the campers had an opportunity to listen to a coach like Robinson.

"It's huge to have a coach of that caliber," Evans noted. "We have a lot of college coaches and NFL guys on the field right now, and to have Cach Robinson, with the résumé he brings down with Super Bowl wins and bowl games, it's just incredible."

"I think it is a great message and I think the kids heard it," Evans continued. "There are a lot of good kids out there today, and if they listen to that and follow it, they will be OK."

Colin Cooper, a 14-year-old Geneva High School freshman, thought Robinson's message hit home.

"He reminded us of what we need to do," Cooper said.

Cooper, a tight end and linebacker, believes the opportunity to learn multiple positions at the free, weeklong camp is another plus.

"You get to do all the positions, learn all the positions and get a lot of reps at every single position," Cooper commented. "There are good coaches and they know what they are doing."

Robinson, who is running his own camp at Syracuse University this week, enjoys the chance to tell kids what football means to him.

"It's important as a coach, and I have a responsibility to do that too," Robinson said. "I have had a lot of experiences in football, and football has been wonderful for me and for my family, so I think that I owe it a little to give it back."

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UPSWING

Orange are 7-28 under Robinson

■ Continued from Page 13

added.

Robinson's team has struggled throughout his three seasons, going 7-28 overall and 2-19 in the Big East Conference.

To the surprise of many, he was given a fourth year to turn things around. Robinson knows there is

pressure on him to produce results, and that includes himself.

"I feel just like everybody else. It's time to get it going," Robinson commented. "I think that we are at that point right now where we can."

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