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# PHS baseball earns first win in tough year

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## Little Tigers stick together to end

In a poignant microcosm of its season, the Princeton High School baseball team was beaten by 10 runs when it played Allentown recently.

The team's record at that point was 0-20, the 0 more eye catching than anything else.

"It has definitely been a tough season," Princeton coach Scott Goldsmith said. "With improvements in the CVC and Patriot division, it has been even harder for us."

It has also been a very streaky season for the Little Tigers, who had four more games to play in their waning season.

The first of those games was Friday, when the Little Tigers picked up their first win with a 12-6 conquest of West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

"It was a huge relief, and no one gave up for the season," sophomore Trevor Barsamian said. "We all knew we would get at least one win."

John Miranda pitched five scoreless innings, while Matt Alvarez pitched one-third of an inning and Eric Hoffman finished on the mound against South. It was a more complete effort than the Little Tigers had produced in their first 20 games.

"If our pitching was good, our hitting was bad, if our pitching was bad our hitting was good, and if they both were good, our fielding was bad," said Barsamian, a designated hitter and outfielder.

The team has had four games in which they had the lead going into the final inning and several other games where it lost the lead late in the contest.

"We really need to step up our pitching," added Goldsmith, talking about the failure to close out games.

However, something that the team can smile at in a season filled with frowns is the fact that they have only been 10-run ruled three times this year.

"Many other teams have been 10-runmed more than three times, which means that although we haven't won, a majority of our games have been close," Barsamian said.

As is the case with many teams who do not have a high win total, frustration and anger can run rampant. However, as Barsamian pointed out, there has been no finger pointing.

"The team has no problems with the captains (seniors David Staller, John Miranda and Chris Brooks) and there has been absolutely no finger pointing or blame for our season on any one person," he said. "Because we understand that we are all responsible, and we all have things that we can work on."

The future for the team looks promising according to Goldsmith.

"We have real good classes coming up, especially the sophomores," the second-year coach said. "There should be some good battles for the spots that

are being vacated by our graduating seniors. Also, we need new leadership, and we need new pitching."

In order to have a more ready and in-shape team next year, Goldsmith recommends that his players play baseball year-round, such as summer ball, American Legion and fall ball.

However, as Barsamian points out, "It is better to play more sports than just one because the things that you do in other sports helps you get ready for baseball. Like if you play football, it will help you with your speed."

Wednesday was Senior Day at PHS and Goldsmith wanted to play all of his seniors — Brooks, Miranda, Staller, Joe D'Eramo, Steven Barsamian and Adam Friedman. Although the game was rained out, Goldsmith still wants some of them to play all nine positions in the field if they can in their three remaining games. He wants his seniors to have one last memory of their PHS baseball career before they graduate.