

Schroths find relief with Brachelli's complete game

By RED BIRCH
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TRENTON — Kenny Brachelli gave the Trenton Post 93 Schroths exactly what they needed yesterday.

What Trenton needed last night was no different from what it has been looking for over the first three weeks of the Mercer County American Legion League season — leadership from the mound.

Brachelli was more than happy to oblige.

After struggling through his first two outings, the 18-year-old right-hander had total command of his pitches yesterday in going the distance, scattering six hits and striking out eight, while walking only four, in an 8-3 victory over Princeton Post 218 at Wetzel Field.

It was a great relief for Brachelli, who had been struck for double-digit runs in losses to Broad Street Park Post 313 and North Trenton Post 458.

"It's a very nice change when you're throwing strikes," Brachelli said. "Everything was working today — my curveball, my slider, my fastball. My change-up was working off and on. Most of the time I was getting people out with my curve."

Brachelli's younger teammates could sense the difference, especially once they gave their captain run support.

The Schroths (2-6) got on the board first when Matt Joiner doubled after Princeton starter Anthony Freda struck out the first two batters he faced in the bottom of the first inning. Xavier Jaquez drew a walk, then Jose Garcia, who just finished his sophomore year at Trenton High, delivered an RBI single.

Post 218 (1-6) evened the score the following inning on Joe Mayes' RBI single after Clint O'Brien walked and stole second base, but the Schroths would not let their pitcher down after he worked out of two jams.

A two-out error on a fly ball by Garcia in the third inning led to two runs, then Nick Mondello doubled in another to give the home team a 4-1 edge.

The next inning, Javier Torres walked and Jim O'Boyle doubled before 15-year-old Carlos DeJesus, who just graduated from Grace A. Dunn Middle School, singled in an insurance run to spark another three-run surge.

"We've got a bunch of 15- and 16-year-olds who will do things with this team if they keep at it and work with our coaches," Brachelli said. "I'm really hoping that this win will bring us back to the top of our game. We're very capable of doing better."

Brachelli responded by limiting Princeton to four hits over the final five innings after Pat Andrews led off the third with a double.

Post 93's pitcher also saw some great defense behind him, including a slick double play from second baseman George Suarez to Garcia at short and over to first baseman Christian Suarez to end the fourth inning.

"We need to start coming up with more clutch hits," said Andrews, who doubled twice versus Brachelli.

Andrews scored on Rich von der Schmidt's single in the fifth inning, but Post 218 could only manage one more run after that even though it loaded the bases with one out in the sixth.

After Trevor Barsamian drove in one run with a single and Brachelli reloaded the bases by walking Colby Haring, the hard-nosed-righty who graduated from Hamilton High in 2007 then took a year off from school to work battled back to strike out Sam Baxendale and Andrews to escape further damage.

"He's our captain and our leader," Trenton manager Doug Moore said. "We need pitching, and that was the best performance of the year for us so far by one of our pitchers."

Brachelli and the Schroths are hoping it will be the first of many.

TRENTON 8, PRINCETON 3

PRINCETON 218	ab	r	h	bi	TRENTON 93	ab	r	h	bi
Andrews 2b	4	1	2	0	O'Boyle lf	3	1	1	1
vonderSchmidt dh	4	0	1	1	DeJesus cf	4	1	1	1
Freda p	0	0	0	0	Joiner rf	3	2	1	1
Gordy p	0	0	0	0	X.Jaquez c	2	1	2	1
Siegel 1b	4	0	0	0	Garcia ss	4	1	1	1
O'Brien ss	3	1	1	0	Mondello dh	2	1	1	1
Mayes c	3	1	1	1	Washington ph	1	0	0	0
Madden lf	2	0	0	0	Brachelli p	0	0	0	0
Fuhrman lf	0	0	0	0	G.Suarez 2b	3	0	1	0
Petrucelli rf	2	0	0	0	C.Suarez 1b	2	0	1	0
Barsamian rf	1	0	1	1	C.Suarez 1b	2	0	1	0
M.A.Torres ph-1b	1	0	1	0	Haring cf	1	0	0	0
J.Torres 3b	2	1	0	0	Baxendale 3b	3	0	0	0
Totals	27	3	6	3	Totals	27	8	10	6
Princeton (1-6)					Princeton	0	1	0	1
Trenton (2-5)					Trenton	3	1	0	3
					E-Petrucelli, G.Suarez, M.A. Torres, DP-Trenton 1.				
					LOB-Princeton 8, Trenton 8. 2B-Andrews 2, Joiner, Mondello, O'Boyle. 3B-O'Brien. SB-O'Brien, Joiner, X.Jaquez 2. CS-Mayes, Garcia, G.Suarez.				

PRINCETON POST 218

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Freda L, 1-2	4	9	8	5	4	6
Gordy	2	1	0	0	2	4

TRENTON POST 93 SCHROTHS

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Brachelli W, 1-2	7	6	3	2	4	8

Freda faced 2 batters in the 5th inning.
HBP-by Freda (G.Suarez), by Brachelli (Haring).

MCALL STANDINGS

Team	W	L	GB
Lawrence 414	7	2	—
North Trenton 458	6	2	0.5
Hightstown 148	4	1	1.0
Ewing 314	7	4	1.0
Bordentown 26	5	3	1.5
Hamilton 31	5	3	1.5
WW-P	4	5	3.0
Broad St. Park 313	3	5	3.5
Trenton 93 Schroths	2	6	4.5
Princeton 218	1	6	5.0
Mitchell Davis 182	1	8	6.0