



## Local Matters.

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#### Panther streak up to six

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The resilient Panthers started off the week with a bang, taking two from Littleton June 22 on the road.

The American-Legion squad then continued their winning ways, as they took two more from Elizabeth June 24 at Meadow Wood, improving to 10-6 overall and 9-3 in league play with their fifth and sixth straight wins.

In the first game of the week Woodland Park found itself down 7-4 after two, but rallied to tie things up at eight after six, sending things to extra innings after a scoreless seventh.

The Panthers then scorched the base paths for six runs in the top half of the eighth, picking up the 14-9 victory.

After a rough start on the hill for Louie Niel, who gave up five runs and seven hits through one inning, Jerid Huggins put Littleton on lockdown, pitching the final seven, while striking out 15 and giving up just four hits.

Huggins also had a big day from the plate. One of four Panthers — along with Charlie Jones, Chris Driscoll and Niel — to go 3-for-5, the senior-to-be finished a home run short of the cycle and knocked in four runs.

Ryan Canella added a 5-for-6 outing, while Taylor Watters chipped in two hits of his own.

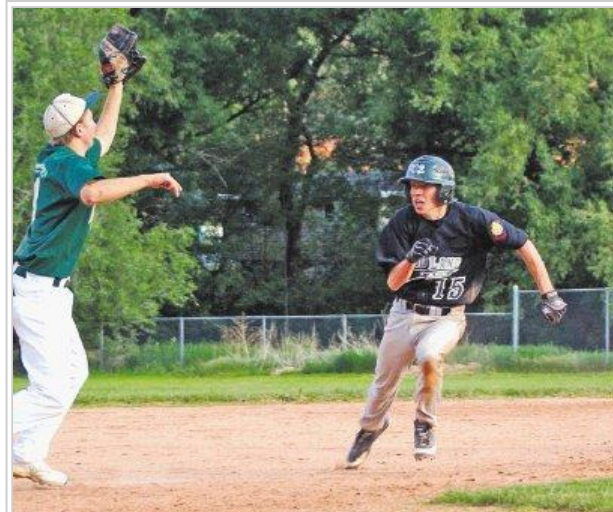
In the nightcap, WP jumped out early, holding a 3-0 lead after the second, but Littleton tied things up in the fourth.

The Panthers then scored four in the bottom half to take a 7-3 lead and after seeing their lead trimmed to 7-6 in the fifth, exploded for six more in the sixth to pull away for an eventual 13-7 win.

Canella, Watters and Huggins all homered and this time, Huggins and Watters, both 3-for-4, each finished a triple shy of the cycle, while Zach Allen also added three singles.

Watters went 4.2 innings, scattering eight hits and three earned runs — six total — and a composed Niel re-took the mound allowing just two hits over the final 2.1 innings for the save.

“Hopefully we can keep it up, but we are playing really well right now,” Panther manager Chris Winstead said. “As the summer goes we miss a few people here and there so that is always challenging, but we are playing more and more regularly. Earlier in June it was kind of a sporadic schedule dealing with football and basketball [camps], but we pretty much had everyone there for the last three [doubleheaders].”



Ryan Canella had a huge week, including a 5-for-6 outing and a home run as the Panthers picked up four wins against zero losses improving to 10-6 overall on the summer. Courtesy photo | Terri Huggins

In the last doubleheader of the week the Panthers utilized every bit of their present roster too as they roared out to a 13-0 lead midway through the third in game one against Elizabeth.

Lee Stunkard, who was a combined 5-for-8 between the two games, picked up the win while Jonathan Sisk allowed just one hit in 2.1 innings of relief in the 16-8 triumph.

"Stunkard is starting to come back now," Winstead said. "We are watching him tentatively, but he is starting to throw real well and the shot he hit at the end of game two was a monster."

Huggins joined Stunkard in the home run column as he hit one out in both games and went a combined 4-for-6 in the two contests, while missing the cycle by a triple yet again in game two.

"Jerid has played really, really well," Winstead said. "He has stepped up his play and shown a lot of intensity and is definitely one of the leaders on the team."

The manager stated that he has also been receiving a lot of leadership from fellow seniors-to-be Canella and Watters.

Charlie Jones and Colter Streck combined for the win in the second game of the day, as WP came from behind 6-4 to score the final 11 runs of the day, including Stunkard's fifth-inning mercy rule walkoff.

"We really are starting to hit the ball hard," Winstead said. "If we play with intensity we have the chance to be one of the better teams that I've had. Again, there are some teams that have had maybe more talent, but we are developing some solid pitching depth and I think it's going to help us."

Winstead hopes the boys can keep things going and that the Panthers will qualify for the state tournament which is to be from July 23-27 at Meadow Wood.

Next, however, Woodland Park will hit the road for two at Boulder June 29 and then play host to Faith Christian for two more starting at 3 p.m. on July 1.

Super Series coming

The Panthers' U-14 team will represent the town of Woodland Park as this year's National Super Series for youth baseball returns to Meadow Wood Park July 11. The tournament will stretch two weekends and host youth teams spanning the ages of 9-14. Roughly 70 of the 80 teams participating are coming from out of state. The city is currently looking for volunteers to help check in and welcome teams and coaches to the area. Please contact Larry Tenenholz at 719-648-2871 or [larryt@wp-sf.org](mailto:larryt@wp-sf.org) if you'd like to help.

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