

# Express rally falls short

*Rockville loses 8-6 in extra innings to Bombers*

By Joe Slaninka  
Sentinel Sports

When College Park's Joe Schmidbauer walked up to the plate in the top of the tenth inning, he said to himself, "Just put the ball in play."

That's what the third baseman from Mesa State did in the top of the tenth inning, with one out and a runner on third. Schmidbauer swung on a fastball and lined it into right field, extending the lead, 7-6.

"Good things happen when you put it in play," Schmidbauer said. "I actually kind of pulled off on it and didn't really hit that hard; but sometimes you don't need to."

The bombers added one more run later in the tenth inning to build a two run cushion, 8-6, which proved to be enough to secure their 12th win of the season.

By the end of the sixth inning College Park had built a 6-0 lead, but Rockville was resilient as they rallied in the eighth inning, scoring three runs, and again in the ninth, scoring another three runs to force extra innings.

"The game is based on momentum and if you can get a little momentum, it carries over," Rockville Skipper Jim Periera said. "Hitting is an infectious thing. If one guy gets a

hit, and another guy, it starts to snowball into positive things."

The Express still had fight left in them in the bottom of the tenth inning, getting a man on base, but couldn't get any other offense going as the Bombers held on, giving Rockville their twelfth loss in their last thirteen outings.

"They battled," Periera said about his team. "I'm more impressed with my guys that they didn't give up. They battled right to the end."

College Park head coach Tom Cassera said weak pitching attributed to the Express comeback. Their starting pitcher shut out the Express in the first few innings, but their bullpen helped Rockville inch their way back into the game.

"We truly really don't have a stopper," Cassera said. "I think that's where we are going to have the most pain and once we can get this program to where we can get one, it makes it a lot easier."

Although Rockville stumbled Monday, they are still very much alive in the playoff race, only three games out of the final playoff slot.

"We haven't given up," Periera said. "I guarantee you we are going to battle. Some guys are struggling and getting frustrated, but we're going to be okay."

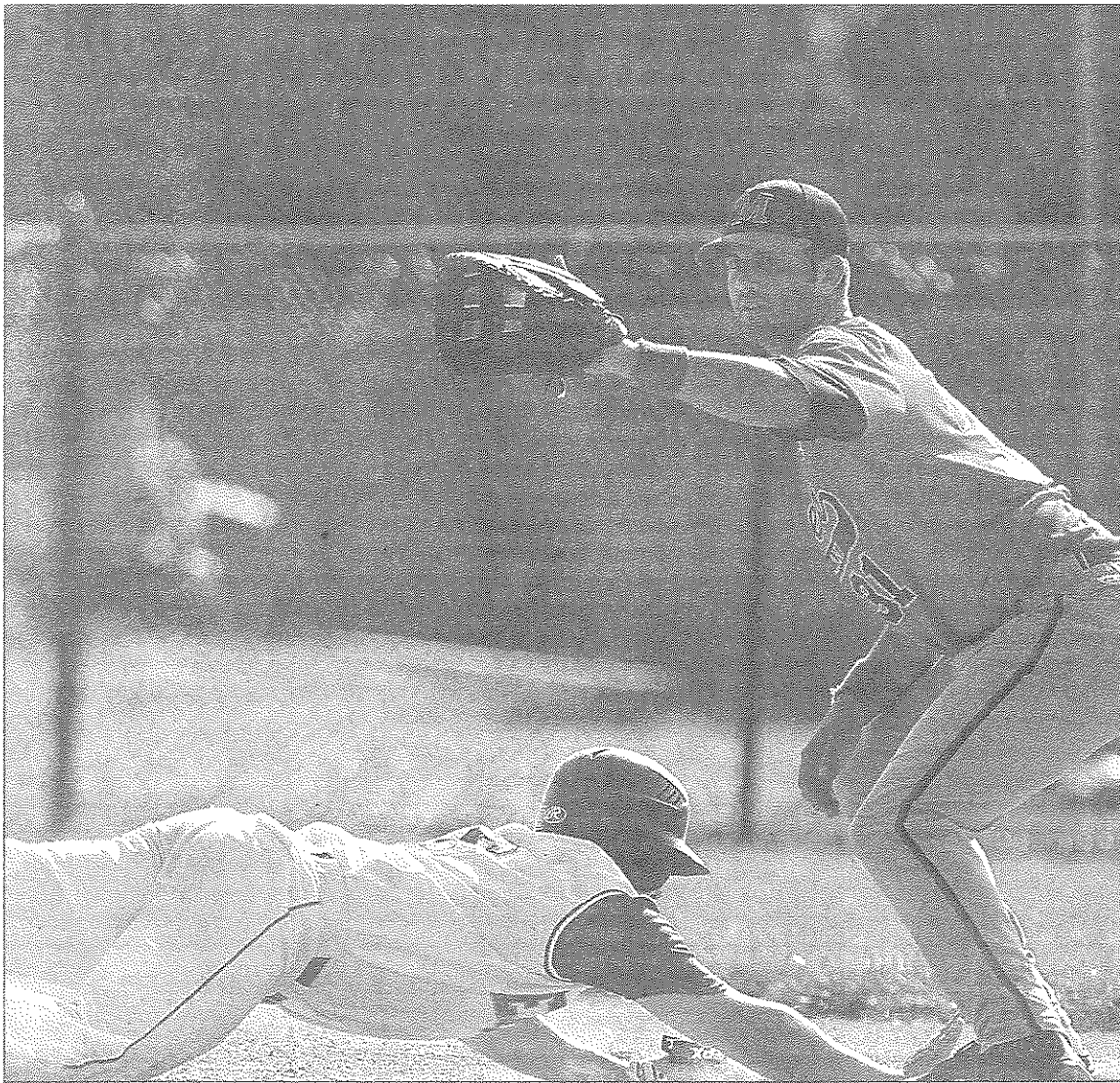


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Rockville Express Ed Medeiros slides into first to avoid a pickoff while the Bombers Matt Walker waits for the ball.