

No. 5 Mount Olive Completes Sweep

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, 06 February 2012 08:32

The fifth-ranked Mount Olive College Baseball Team (3-0) completed the three-game weekend series sweep over Lenoir-Rhyne University (1-3) with a 16-1 victory Sunday afternoon

at Scarborough Field. The Trojans' Mike Mercurio (Brewster, N.Y.) hit a grand slam and finished with a game-high seven runs batted in as Mount Olive stayed unbeaten on the year.

Mount Olive put the contest away early as the Trojans scored 11 runs in the first three innings of play.

The Trojans plated four runs in the opening frame before Mercurio added a two-run single in the second inning for a 6-0 Mount Olive advantage.

Mount Olive added five more runs in both the third and sixth innings highlighted by Mercurio's grand slam in the sixth frame.

Mercurio finished with four hits as well while Daniel Oliver (Plymouth, N.C.) added two hits and three runs scored to lead the Trojans' 16-hit attack on the afternoon.

Junior first baseman Colton Hansley (Asheville, N.C.) hit a solo home run for the Bears in the top of the fifth inning for L-R's lone score of the game.

Mount Olive's Zach Smith (Newnan, Ga.) (1-0) allowed just one hit and one run while striking out seven batters over six innings of work in picking up the win. Lenoir-Rhyne sophomore Ryan Jones (Asheville, N.C.) fell to 1-1 after suffering the loss.

Lenoir-Rhyne faces Belmont Abbey on the road in its next contest Tuesday beginning at 2:00 p.m. The two teams will then meet in the L-R's home opener on Wednesday at Bears Field beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Colton Hensley, LRU Athletics