

2013 SEASON RECAP

TIGERS WIN 5-3; FINISH .500 OR BETTER FOR 10TH CONSECUTIVE SEASON -- Mike Nanstad won his third decision in eight days as the Albion Tigers beat the McFarland Muskies 5-3 at Albion Park. The veteran right-hander fought through shoulder soreness to throw into the sixth inning, yielding only two hits before giving way to Josh Eastman who carried the Tigers through the eighth inning. Then Adam Gregory fanned three Muskies in the ninth for his second save of the season, including a punch-out of Ryan Fischer to end the game with the bases loaded and the tying run at second base. Albion struck early with two runs in the first, thanks to two Muskie errors and an RBI by Eastman. Zach Nelson's RBI double to deep right field scored Marty Johnson from first base in the fourth inning, and Aaron Laskowski followed with a two-out RBI single to score Nelson. The Tigers capped their scoring in the fifth when Adam Gregory singled and eventually scored on a ground-rule double by Kyle Johnson that landed in the middle of Academy Drive and finally stopped at the Albion Township garage. Laskowski paced the Tigers offensively going 3x4 with a run scored, an RBI, and two stolen bases. Veteran left-fielder Jesse Appel's bat was also alive, going 2x4 with a tape-measure stand-up triple to deep rightfield at Albion Park.

TIGERS BURN FIREMEN IN BLOWOUT -- The Albion Tigers made short work of the Cottage Grove Firemen, winning 11-0 in five innings to clinch the top seed in the Eastern Night League playoffs. Pitchers Cam Wileman and Aaron Laskowski combined to throw five scoreless innings and strike out five, but the story of the night was the Albion offense. Four Tigers had two RBIs apiece, led by Laskowski whose third hit of the game was a two-run triple in the fourth that blew the game open. Tyler Oren, Zach Nelson, and Dan Millar each contributed two RBIs to the cause, with Tim Houfe chipping in an RBI single as well. Albion got 11 hits from 9 different players, drew four walks, and made no errors.

LATE ALBION RALLY ROUGHS UP UTICA! TIGERS WIN, 9-5! -- Kyle Johnson's third hit of the night broke a 5-5 tie with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning at Racetrack Park on Monday night. His RBI double, hit deep in the gap and off the glove of Utica leftfielder Max Gartzke, put Albion ahead for good. Marty Johnson followed with his third hit, also an RBI double to deep center, to add an insurance run, as did Jamie Shelley's two-out RBI single. Jim Eastman staked the Tigers to an early lead when his two-out, three-run double bounced off the leftfield fence in the second inning. Then after Utica scored four in the top of the fourth to pull ahead 4-3, the Johnson brothers each delivered RBI singles in the bottom of the frame to give the lead back to the Tigers. After a single Utica tally in the seventh, the stage was set for the Tigers four-run output in the eighth. Albion starter Cam Wileman threw into the seventh inning and only gave up two earned runs before turning it over to Mike Nanstad, who threw three scoreless frames to pick up his second win in as many days.

NANSTAD, EASTMAN LEAD TIGERS TO WIN OVER JAYS -- The Albion Tigers rode Mike Nanstad's right arm to a 4-1 victory over the Evansville Jays on Sunday afternoon at Albion Park. The veteran fire-baller surrendered just one hit over seven innings while striking out eight, and Josh Eastman pitched two scoreless frames to close out the game and earn his second save of the season. After the Tigers fell behind 1-0 in the top of the second, Kyle Johnson scored on a wild pitch to tie the score in the bottom half. The Tigers pulled ahead for good in the fourth when Josh Eastman scored on a sacrifice fly by his dad, Jim. Albion added two insurance runs in the 5th when Aaron Laskowski walked, stole second, and scored on Josh Eastman's RBI single before Eastman scored on Johnson's RBI single for the final tally.

WILEMAN SHINES IN TIGERS DEBUT -- Cameron Wileman made a splash in his Albion debut, throwing seven innings, striking out eight and collecting two hits of his own against the Lake Mills Grays to lead the Tigers to a 9-2 Eastern Night League win. Wileman's battery mate Kyle Johnson also had two hits and drove in four runs, including a three-run single in Albion's decisive five-run sixth inning. Albion is now 7-1 in ENL play and has clinched a playoff berth.

EASTMAN'S ARM AND 17 HITS LEAD TIGERS TO ROUT AT UTICA -- Josh Eastman threw a complete game shutout and the Tigers' offense exploded for 17 hits at Utica for a 10-0 win on Sunday afternoon. Eastman also brought his bat on Sunday, going 3x6 with a double and two RBIs. Ben Everson also had three hits for the winners, while Aaron Laskowski had three hits and drove in four runs. Tyler Oren, Kyle Johnson, and Adam Gregory joined the hit parade with two hits a piece while the Tigers won their third consecutive Sunday HTL game (sixth consecutive win overall). Earning his third win of the season, Eastman lowered his ERA to 0.92 for the season. **TIGERS SHUT OUT BLUE DEVILS, IMPROVE TO 6-0 IN NIGHT LEAGUE** -- Mike Nanstad threw five scoreless innings and Bryant Schulte dealt two more to lead the Tigers to a 3-0 victory over the Jefferson Blue Devils Thursday night at Albion Park. Albion got two runs in the first on RBI's from Adam Gregory and Marty Johnson before tacking on an unearned insurance run in the 5th. The win improves the Tigers to 6-0 in Night League action, stretching their 1st place lead in the Eastern Section. Albion pitchers have now walked just one hitter in the last 23 innings.

TIGERS WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT -- The Albion Tigers pulled their Southeast Section record even to 4-4 and won their fourth straight game overall as they beat Cambridge 6-2 on Sunday in Albion Park. Pitchers Ben Everson (5 innings) and Josh Eastman (4 innings) combined to allow one earned run and no walks, while the Tiger offense got a balanced attack to beat the Blues for the second time in four days.

KYLE JOHNSON DELIVERS IN CLUTCH -- Kyle Johnson smashed a line drive through the middle of the Cambridge infield to deliver Zach Nelson with the winning run and a 7-6 Eastern Night League victory for the Tigers on Thursday night. Albion is now 5-0 in the ENL (8-4 overall). As starting pitcher Bryant Schulte cruised along, the Tigers got 2-run hits from Schulte and Adam Gregory to take a 4-0 lead in the third. Cambridge made it a 4-3 game in the fifth, but Albion extended to 6-3 with RBIs from Tyler Oren and Lars Olstad in the sixth. But three unearned Blue runs in the top of the seventh forced a bottom half, so with two outs and nobody on

Nelson reached on an infield hit, stole second, and moved to third on a wild pitch. Gregory and Pete Millar drew walks to load the bases for Johnson, who promptly singled up the middle for the win.

EASTMAN, ALBION PUMMEL DEERFIELD -- Josh Eastman threw five scoreless innings and had 3 RBIs in leading the Albion Tigers to a 15-1 romp over host Deerfield on Sunday. The Tigers banded out 12 hits as a team and had 8 different players register an RBI as they moved to 3-4 in the Southeast Section (7-4 overall).

SCHULTE SHUTS DOWN SUN PRAIRIE -- Bryant Schulte allowed only three baserunners as he threw six shutout innings against visiting Sun Prairie on Thursday night. Schulte's gem moved Albion to 4-0 in the Eastern Night League and 6-4 overall. Albion grabbed a lead in the third when Tim Houfe drew a leadoff walk and eventually scored after singles by Lars Olstad and Mike Nanstad. The game stayed 1-0 most of the way until Albion added on four runs in the 6th on RBI hits from Zach Nelson and Dan Millar. Reliever Adam Gregory stuck out two in a perfect seventh.

TIGERS GO TO 3-0 IN NIGHT LEAGUE -- Mike Nanstad struck out the first five Monona Braves he faced, and Zach Nelson had four RBIs as the Albion Tigers won 6-2 in an Eastern Night League game in Albion Park. Nanstad went four innings to collect the win and was backed up by three scoreless from Bryant Schulte. The Tigers had taken a 1-0 lead on Lars Olstad's sac fly in the second, but Nelson's bases-loaded triple opened up a 5-0 lead for Albion in the fourth and they never looked back.

TIGERS GANG UP ON THE GRAYS -- Ben Everson threw six solid innings and the Albion Tigers backed him up with 12 hits, all resulting in a 12-1 victory over the Lake Mills Grays on Memorial Day at Albion Park. Zach Nelson had two doubles and 3 RBIs to lead the way for Albion.

EASTMAN, TIGERS DO IT AGAIN -- It's unlikely that the Albion Tigers will start calling Fort Atkinson's Jones Park "comfortable" anytime soon, but it sure was a nice place for the Tigers to be over the weekend as they won their second game there in four days, this one a 5-4 Southeast Section victory over the Generals. Josh Eastman did the work on the mound, pitching into the ninth before being relieved by Adam Gregory. Aaron Laskowski led off the game with home run, and Albion added all they needed with a four-run third inning, highlighted by Eastman's two-run single.

TIGERS OUTLAST GENERALS -- Zach Nelson's two-run single in the seventh forced extra innings, where the Tigers eventually prevailed 6-3 over the Fort Atkinson Generals in an Eastern Night League game. Pitchers Bryant Schulte and Adam Gregory each threw four innings before Aaron Laskowski threw a scoreless ninth to nail it down.

TIGER BATS EXPLODE -- The Albion Tigers took their bats to Marshall and used them all night long as they beat the host Firemen 11-5 in an Eastern Night League game. The Tigers banded out 17 hits total, and it all started at the top of the order where Tyler Oren and Ben Everson combined to go 7x9 with 7 runs and 5 RBIs. Jamie Shelley (3x4) and Josh Eastman (2x4) also added multiple hits for Albion. Bryant Schulte started on the mound for the Tigers and earned his victory by allowing only one earned run in six innings of work.

SCHULTE, EASTMAN LEAD TIGERS -- Jim Eastman went deep in the first inning and Bryant Schulte threw a complete game as the Albion Tigers earned a 5-3 win over Mazomanie in the Ashton Tournament. Schulte was a workhorse on the mound against Mazo, striking out 6 and walking 4 as he held the Mustangs to two earned runs. Eastman's solo shot put Albion on the board in the first, and they added two more in the second when Tim Houfe doubled in Mike Nanstad and then came around to score on a throwing error. The Tigers added their final two runs in the fourth on Ben Towns' two-run single to right.