



Genesee Rapids

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Kids Day Cheers Spark Rapids Comeback

Tristin Gleason

Houghton, NY 6/14/2019- The Genesee Rapids beat the Olean Oilers in an 8-5 game on their Kids Day. The Rapids had let up all 5 runs against them in the top of 4th inning. Going into the bottom of the 6th inning the Rapids were losing 5-1 when about a thousand kids starting cheering "Let's Go Rapids" at the top of their lungs. The kids kept this cheer up for the whole inning and it sparked a fire inside the Rapids players, as the Rapids rallied 5 runs that inning.

With the help of the chants and cheers from the kids, the Rapids had another very offensively productive game and had eight great defensive innings. Players such as Daniel Manion (St. Bonaventure), Anthony Azpeitia (St. Michael's), Nicholas Zielomski (Providence), Preston Stanley (Malone), and Ozzie Rodriguez (St. Michael's) lead the game for the Rapids. Manion had 2 hits on 3 at bats, 1 walk, 2 runs, and an RBI in the matchup against the Oilers. Azpeitia had another great performance in this game as he picked up 2 runs, 1 hit, a walk and an RBI. Both players had a great game but the player that faced a key under pressure play, was Nicholas Zielomski. Zielomski was at bat in 6th inning with 2 outs and he hit a ball into right field to bring in 2 Rapids runners. During the game Zielomski had 3 hits and 3 RBI's in 4 at bats, that helped put the Rapids over the Oilers. Defensively Stanley, also had another game that impressed fans. Stanley only allowed one hit in his three innings pitched and also had 3 strikeouts. Stanley was the starting pitcher and had set the tempo for the game. Later in the game, Rodriguez had closed the game and picked up the save. Rodriguez pitched 1.2 innings had one strikeout and only allowed one hit.



#13 Zach Guzi signing kid's shirt

Though the players from the Rapids admit this was an amazing comeback, they also admit they couldn't have done this without the kids today. "The kids had a HUGE impact on the game today, they were amazing and contributed a lot to the momentum swing in the game. As a team we could see they getting into their [Oilers players] heads" said Zielomski after the game. When I asked closer Ozzie Rodriguez about the kids in this game he said "they were awesome. One rally inning, I think it was bottom 5 or bottom 6, we had them cheering Let's go Rapids and we scored 5 runs to go up by one." What an amazing comeback from the Rapids and this game will be remembered by Rapids players, fans, and staff all alike.

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For more information or to learn more about the Genesee Rapids faith-based summer collegiate baseball, visit our website at www.geneseebaseball.com or call us at (716) 969-0688.