

2023 season recap

TIGERS SHUT OUT STOUGHTON TO WRAP UP REGULAR SEASON

Three effective pitchers and flawless defense led the Albion Tigers to a 5-0 victory over the Stoughton Merchants on Sunday. Albion finishes the season 11-3 in the Southeast Section and will host the Cambridge Blues next Sunday in a Sectional Semi-Final. Charlie Hatlen started and threw four solid innings, giving way to Garrett Revels in the fifth. Revels used a couple timely strikeouts to survive seven baserunners over his two-and-a-third to earn a relief win. Brian Rusch entered the game with the bases loaded and one out in the seventh inning, but got a strikeout and a sterling play in the hole from shortstop Shane Kisting to snuff out the potential tying runs. Rusch then cruised over the last two innings to preserve the shutout, Albion's third of the season.

TIGERS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT WITH 14-3 ROUT AT FOOTVILLE

The Albion Tigers clinched a Southeast Section playoff berth with a 14-3 victory against the Footville Outlaws on Sunday afternoon. The win makes Albion 10-3 in Southeast play and marks their first postseason trip since 2019. The Tiger bats got hot early, leading 6-0 after three innings. A leadoff double by Steven Olson, a sacrifice fly by Colton Kurt, and two Outlaw errors led to three runs in the second inning. In the third, Matthew Kubertanz had a big two-out, two-run single to push the lead to six. RBIs from Kurt, Olson, and Charlie Hatlen in the fifth added to the lead, and a big two-run single from Shane Kisting in the ninth pushed the lead to 14-3. Not to be outdone, the moundmen from Albion were as sterling as the bats. Steven Olson started and threw into the fifth, allowing a tough-luck three runs on only three hits. He was replaced by Charlie Hatlen, who shut out Footville for the remainder, allowing only one hit to earn the win.

TIGERS, RUSCH TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS

Beautiful Firemen's Park in Waterloo was the site of the Albion Tigers' sixth consecutive Southeast Section win, a 14-1 seven-inning defeat of the home McKays. The Tigers are now 9-3 and can clinch a home playoff game by winning one of their remaining two games in Section play. The Albion bats were hot from the start, scoring three runs in the top of the first with RBI doubles from Drew Hanson and Charlie Hatlen. Matthew Klubertanz drove in Aydan Hanson and was brought home by Drew Hanson in the second to make the lead 5-1. The Tigers broke it open in the third inning. A two-out, two-run single from Sam Veitch extended the inning, Klubertanz reached on an error, and then Drew Hanson sent a baseball into the night over the right-field fence to make the lead 10-1. Later RBIs came from Marcus Richards, Hatlen, and Brian Rusch, all of whom were 2x4 on the night. Speaking of Rusch, his work on the mound was nearly impeccable. The right-hander threw all seven innings and controlled the Waterloo bats all night. He walked none, allowed six hits, and struck out five.

TIGERS START FAST, ROLL TO 9-1 VICTORY

The Albion Tigers scored eight runs in the first two innings on their way to a 9-1 win over the McFarland Muskies on Sunday in the Wally Olstad Classic at Tobacco Days in Edgerton. RBIs in the first from Brian Rusch, Charlie Hatlen, Shane Kisting, and Marcus Richards staked Albion to a 5-0 lead. Richards had another big hit in the second, lining a two-run single to rightfield to score Drew Hanson and Rusch. Richards, Hatlen, and Kisting all finished the day with multiple RBIs, while Drew Hanson reached four times and scored twice for Albion. Meanwhile, the Albion moundmen were doing their usual thing. Hatlen allowed one run over the first five innings, striking out six and walking none. Reliever Peyton Lee matched the feat,

also striking out six Muskies in his four scoreless innings. Albion is now 8-3 in Southeast Section play, a half-game ahead of Evansville.

HATLEN AND LEE DEAL AS TIGERS RUN WILD ON JAYS

Every time the Evansville Jays and Albion Tigers get together, a pitchers' duel is to be expected. Sunday was no different. Four pitchers combined for 29 strikeouts and allowed only one earned run, but it was Albion's Charlie Hatlen and Peyton Lee who ultimately prevailed over Evansville's Will Peterson and Trevor Syse in a 6-2 Tigers victory. The win puts Albion a half-game ahead of Evansville for first place in the South Division of the Southeast Section. Albion was able to make the most of their scarce opportunities on the basepaths, stealing nine bases and advancing on multiple throwing errors by the Jays. Peyton Lee walked and scored in the fourth inning, Cam Wileman turned that trick in the fifth and then again in the seventh to give Albion a 3-2 lead. Big insurance runs came in the eighth, with an RBI single from Shane Kisting and hustle runs from Quinn Kotnour and Sam Veitch.

DEVOLL IMPRESSES IN RETURN TO MOUND

LCpl Charlie DeVoll took the Norse Park mound and threw a gem at the host Stoughton Merchants as the Albion Tigers earned a 9-1 Night League victory on Thursday night. DeVoll, home on leave from his US Marines base in Georgia, allowed only one hit and struck out eight while allowing only three baserunners after the second inning. The Albion offense started slowly, scratching across unearned runs in the first and fourth innings to build a 2-1 lead. The story changed in the sixth, when base hits from Cam Wileman and Peyton Lee combined with walks to Jake Taylor, Marcus Richards, and Carson Brown to put seven runs on the board.

TIGERS PROVIDE FIREWORKS ON JULY 4

The Albion Tigers had an offensive explosion on Tuesday, beating the Utica A's 14-7 in a Southeast Section rivalry game. Albion is now 6-3 in Southeast play. Matthew Klubertanz, Cam Wileman, Drew Hanson, and Charlie Hatlen each had three hits for Albion. Steven Olson added an RBI triple and scored two runs as well. Brian Rusch earned the complete game win for Albion. After a rough first four innings, the gutty right-hander settled in and shut out the Association over the last five innings, retiring 13 straight at one point.

HATLEN PITCHES, SLUGS TIGERS TO WIN

Charlie Hatlen used his left arm and a 33-inch bat to lead the Albion Tigers to a key 1-0 victory over the Stoughton Merchants on Sunday at Norse Park. Hatlen gave up two hits and allowed only one runner to reach third base in throwing his third complete game of the year. Three Stoughton baserunners were eliminated by the Albion defense via double-plays and pick-off plays. Albion had seven basehits and put ten men on base, but the only run of the game came off Hatlen's bat when he led off the seventh inning with a solo shot to rightfield. The Tigers are now 5-3 in Southeast Section play.

TIGERS COME BACK TO WIN KEY SOUTHEAST SHOWDOWN

At one point on Sunday afternoon, the Albion Tigers were trailing 5-0 with two out in the bottom of the sixth inning. But ten minutes later, the Tigers had exploded for seven runs and eventually went on to a 9-5 victory over the Fort Atkinson Generals in a Southeast Section matchup sure to impact the playoff race. With two outs and two strikes against him, Sam Veitch hit a looping line drive to centerfield that broke the dam, scoring Charlie Hatlen and Shane Kisting to get Albion on the board. After Aydan Hanson scored on a wild pitch, Matthew Klubertanz and Drew Hanson both walked to re-load the bases. That set the stage for

Steven Olson, who rocketed his second triple of the game to deep center, scoring three runs and giving Albion a 6-5 lead. Albion tacked on some insurance runs in the seventh with RBIs from Brian Rusch, Drew Hanson, and Veitch. Olson also performed admirably on the mound, throwing four innings of sterling relief behind starter Charlie Hatlen. "Steve-O" earned the win by allowing only one hit and one walk over the last four innings, controlling the potent Fort bats with five strikeouts. Albion is now 4-3 in Southeast Section play, a mere half-game behind first-place Evansville.

TIGERS WIN NL GAME BEHIND ZEIMET, RUSCH

Dan Zeimet made his 2023 mound debut on Thursday night and was his typical efficient and reliable self in a 5-3 East Night League game against the Cottage Grove Firemen. The veteran righty allowed eight hits over five innings, but limited the damage to three runs. Drew Hanson struck out three in earning himself a two-inning save. Brian Rusch led the Albion offense all night, starting in the second when he singled, stole second, and eventually scored on a wild pitch. He and Steven Olson had RBI singles in the third inning to drive in Quinn Kotnour and Zeimet. The game was tied in the fifth inning, when again Rusch was the man in the spotlight. His two-out, two-run single plated Drew Hanson and Matthew Klubertanz to give Albion a 5-3 lead that would hold up.

RUSCH SHUTS OUT GENERALS

Brian Rusch threw a complete game gem for the second time in two weeks and led his Albion Tigers to a 5-0 victory over the host Fort Atkinson Generals on Friday night. The win gave Albion a third-place finish in the Fort Atkinson Baseball Fest Tournament. Rusch struck out six and allowed only six baserunners all night, two of which were erased by a pickoff and a double play from the sterling Albion defense. Drew Hanson and Charlie Hatlen had two-out RBI hits in a three-run third for Albion, with Steven Olson adding an RBI double in the seventh for a little insurance. Matthew Klubertanz led the way with three hits for the Tigers.

HATLEN AND TIGERS BEAT UP ON GRAYS

The Albion Tigers traveled to Lake Mills and left with a 17-0 victory on Sunday afternoon. Charlie Hatlen pitched 8 shutout innings and hit a three-run homer, while Drew Hanson reached base six times for Albion and drove in three runs. Tyler LaSchum, Aydan Hanson, Carson Brown, and Colton Kurt also each recorded multiple hits for Albion. The Tigers are now 3-2 in Southeast Section play.

RUSCH SUPPRESSES REBELS

Brian Rusch threw a seven-inning gem at the Helenville Rebels on Friday night in leading his Albion Tigers to a 5-2 victory in the first round of the Fort Generals Baseball Fest Tournament. Rusch allowed only two hits and one earned run, facing only nine hitters over the final three innings.

The Albion bats started slow, but were able to finally break through in the fourth on an RBI from Marcus Richards. They then erupted for four innings in the fifth, highlighted by a two-run single by Shane Kisting and a ringing RBI double from Peyton Lee. Kisting and Drew Hanson had two hits apiece and Steven Olson scored twice to lead the Albion offense.

PEYTON LEE(DS) ALBION TO VICTORY

Peyton Lee showed up in a big way for the Albion Tigers as they earned a crucial 3-2 Southeast Section win at Utica on Sunday. Lee threw seven scoreless innings and hit a solo homer in the first, and was backed up by flawless defense and a real team effort. The Tigers moved to 2-1 in Southeast Section play. Albion got

on the board in the first with Lee's solo shot, then pushed the lead to two in the second when Sam Veitch drew a two-out walk, moved up when Matthew Klubertanz singled, and eventually scored when Lee bounced a single through the left side. The Tigers got a huge insurance run in the fifth when Drew Hanson doubled and scored on Charlie Hatlen's sacrifice fly to right. All the while, Lee was keeping the potent Utica bats silent. The right-hander allowed only five baserunners over seven innings. He was backed up by Charlie Hatlen, who walked nobody while earning a two-inning save,

TIGERS START SOUTHEAST PLAY WITH 3-1 WIN

Saturday night's Southeast Section opener in Evansville was a classic pitchers' duel between veteran Albion lefty Charlie Hatlen and young flamethrower Spencer Buskager. While Buskager struck out 17 Tigers and allowed only three hits, it was Hatlen and the Tigers who claimed a 3-1 win at Lake Leota Park. After Evansville got a run in the first inning, Albion claimed the lead in the fourth when Drew Hanson walked, Hatlen singled, and they both scored when Steven Olson's hard grounder to third was misplayed. The score remained unchanged until the ninth, when Hanson drew a leadoff walk, moved around on a deep fly by Shane Kisting, and eventually scored on a balk by Buskager to give Albion a much-needed insurance run. Hatlen allowed nine hits and struck out six, picked off two runners, and was aided by two double plays from his Albion teammates.