

Perrysburg's Volschow ends career with memorable home run

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BY MARK MONROE / THE BLADE



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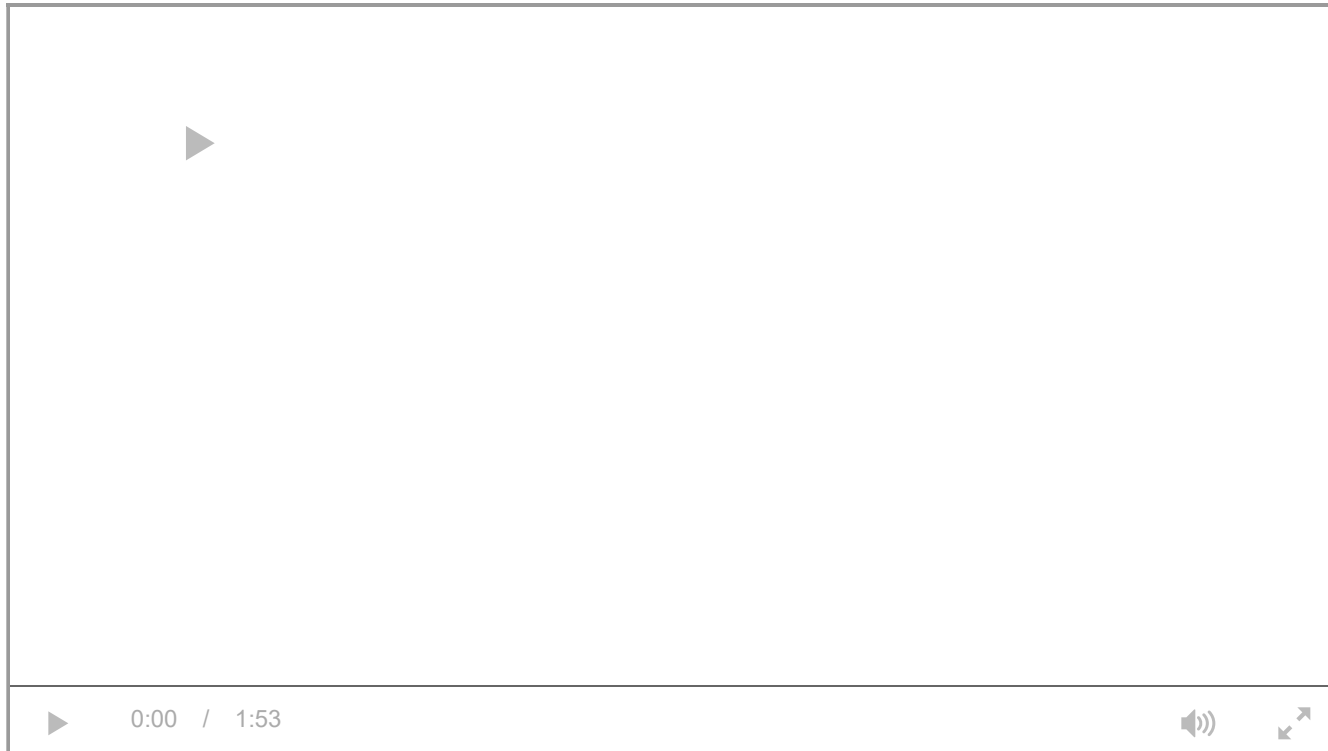
Perryburg's Andrew Volschow reacts to scoring a run during a Northern Lakes League senior all-star baseball exhibition game at Carter Park in Bowling Green.

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BOWLING GREEN — The main directive set before a Northern Lakes League senior sendoff baseball game on Monday was simply to have fun, and Perrysburg's Andrew Volschow had an absolute ball.

In his final opportunity to represent the Yellow Jackets, Volschow blasted a solo home run that gave his combined Perrysburg/Maumee team the lead for good. Volschow's homer that sailed over the fence in left-center field at Carter Park in Bowling Green lifted his Perrysburg/Maumee team to a 14-8 win over a team of players from Anthony Wayne and Napoleon in the first NLL senior all-star game.

It was the first, last, and only home run of Volschow's high school career.



“That felt amazing,” said Volschow, who played catcher and pitched in the game. “That was my first home run through all of high school. So to go out like that in the last game is even more special to me.”

The brainchild of Perrysburg coach Dave Hall, the NLL all-star game featured a doubleheader. Players from Bowling Green and Springfield teamed up to defeat a combined Sylvania team of Northview/Southview 6-3 in the second game.

“It was fun,” Hall said. “There were a ton of people here. It was just letting the seniors have one chance to play. It went well.”

Volschow also pitched 1 2/3 innings, striking out four batters. He also went 2 for 3 at the plate. His key home-run shot traveled 380 feet.

“A win always feels good,” Volschow said. “It's hard to close out on a loss. So one more time having fun, especially at such a nice complex and field, it's nice to have that last one hurrah with all your guys.”

Hall, the longtime Perrysburg coach, said it was rewarding to see the hard work his seniors had put in pay off in big results on the diamond. All of the high school spring sports seasons had been wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic.

“I knew [Volschow] was going to have a good year,” Halls said. “He reshaped himself. To see him hit one there, I think he'll remember that. And that's what this was about. Just getting these guys together again and I think they had fun with the Maumee kids.”

It appeared as though Anthony Wayne senior Zach Knapp was going to be the hero of the exhibition event. Knapp, a catcher, finished 2 for 2 with three runs batted in. He tied the game at 4 in the fourth inning with an RBI single that scored Napoleon's Welsey Jeffries-Babcock and AW's Zach Szul.

One batter later, Napoleon senior Hayden Speaks launched a shot to straight center field that smashed into the scoreboard. The two-run home run traveled about 380 feet and gave the Napoleon/AW team a 6-4 lead.

“It was awesome to have the chance to put the uniform on with the guys one last time and have fun,” Knapp said. “Obviously we wanted to win but it was fun getting to play with the guys. It's nice to meet new people and play against people you've been playing against since travel and through high school. They tried to pair players up with their rivals. So it was nice to settle our difference and come out and play. Perrysburg and Anthony Wayne have always had a little competition the last couple of years, so every time we play them it's a good little rivalry. So it's good to win, especially against them.”

Knapp's AW teammate Hogan Heck, who led off the game with a triple, scored the game's first run on a sac fly by Szul. Anthony Wayne pitcher Daniel Brubaker struck out three batters in the fourth inning.

The Wildcats/Generals added an insurance run in the fifth to make it 7-4.

But Perrysburg/Maumee tied it on a double to the wall in center by Luke Borer that scored Perrysburg teammate Cole Hamby. Hamby had driven in the two runs before Borer plated him in to knot it at 7.

Volschow then led off the sixth with his solo home run before AW's Ryan Burke scored on a single by Maumee's Blake Schneider to make it 9-7.

Hamby then came up with a clutch two-out, three-run double to give Perrysburg/Maumee a 13-7 cushion. Hamby scored the final run on an RBI single by Borer.

Volschow said he had only thrown in a couple of other games over the last few weeks.

“So I told myself if I was going to throw out my arm I might as well do it tonight,” he said.

AW's Heck had a triple and double.

The entire lineup for each team batted once and players were rotated defensively every inning, ensuring that all 13 players saw significant time on the field.

The majority of local high schools resumed some level of workouts in late May as part of a nationwide reopening. The restricted training resumed on May 26 under safety guidelines issued by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, following an approval to reopen from Gov. Mike DeWine in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health.

“When this whole thing got shut down, we were only a week away from playing. It was an awesome experience. I'm pretty happy with my performance,” Volschow said.

Hall said he hopes it becomes a tradition.

“I can definitely see this tradition carrying on,” Volschow said. “It's good to bring teams together.”

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