

## Sports

### Lynx open MRAC play with sweep

*Rommel's effort sparks A.L. to first two victories*

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After losses to Atlantic and St. Albert to open the baseball season, Abraham Lincoln was looking for a way to get its confidence back on track.

Thursday night, A.L. found what it needed.

The Lynx played their best baseball of the season with a doubleheader sweep of Thomas Jefferson at Lincoln Field, earning a 4-2 victory in the first game and an 8-4 triumph in the nightcap.

A.L. not only evened its record at 2-2, but also earned a pair of key wins in Missouri River Activities Conference play.

"It was an emotional game for us for a lot of different reasons," A.L. coach James Larsen said. "Our kids came in focused. We learned a little about ourselves, especially after that Atlantic game. When we got down, the kids talked to each other and said, 'Listen, we've got to play seven full innings.'"

A.L. took that message to heart against its crosstown rival. And game one starting pitcher Kyle Rommel had much to do with Thursday's success.

The senior threw a complete game, scattering four hits while striking out eight. He also helped himself out at the plate, driving in an insurance run on a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning, turning a one-run advantage into a 4-2 lead.

"Kyle's going to be one of those guys we're going to have to drag off the field," Larsen said. "He's been somebody who's going to battle. He's going to put us in position to win a ballgame. He knows his limitations, and that's his biggest attribute."

After a three-run A.L. first inning, T.J. responded with a Brett Derrig two-run homer in its half of the second to cut the deficit to one.

But Rommel handcuffed the Jackets' offense the rest of the way, limiting them to just one hit over the final four innings.

The Lynx solved their inability to come up with timely hits in the second game. A.L. scored two runs in the first inning, one in the second, one in the third and four in the fourth to essentially put the game out of reach.

Meanwhile, T.J.'s offensive struggles continued. The Jackets were held scoreless until Alex Korner and Chris Battaglia each recorded an RBI single in the fourth inning, but they still found themselves in a two-run hole.

T.J. added two more runs in the fifth, but was unable to score the rest of the way.

The Jackets are now 0-3 to start the season. Although positive strides have been taken, coach John Heath said his team has to be more sure of itself in order to find success.

"We're not quite ready to step up like I had hoped we would be," Heath said. "We haven't taken that step to get into the position we need to get to, to be confident in ourselves. I honestly think two-thirds of our problem is our lack of confidence in certain situations."

Thomas Jefferson 020 000 0 - 2 4 2

Abraham Lincoln 300 001 x - 4 6 0

W: Kyle Rommel. L: Jake Hadan.



Staff photo/Cindy Christensen - Abraham Lincoln's Kyle Rommel earned the win in the first game of a doubleheader against Thomas Jefferson Thursday.

2B: TJ, Hadan. AL, Sass. HR: TJ, Derrig.

Thomas Jefferson (0-3) 000 220 0 - 4 8 3

Abraham Lincoln (2-2) 211 400 x - 8 8 1

W: Dillon Sass. L: Brett Derrig.

2B: TJ, Hadan, Banks. AL, Webster. 3B: AL, Rommel, Wettengel.

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