



STRIKEOUT SHOWDOWN

Spartans Dominate at Home

University of Tampa
Tampa, FL

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The Team Celebrates, Victory Sure is Sweet. Bradley Dunn's near perfect pitching performance with Aidan Wallace's hitting prowess propelled the Spartans to a victory against the IMG Ascenders. 03/15/24

In a game that electrified the campus grounds, the University of Tampa Spartans showcased their baseball dominance against the IMG Ascenders. The atmosphere crackled with anticipation as every at bat still had purpose. Students, faculty, and us baseball fans alike gathered at the ballpark. Eager to witness the Spartans, and enjoy entertainment. The Spartans started off slow but got hot and did not stop.

The Spartans held a 3-2 lead going into the bottom of the 4th inning. Only three hits on the box chart, and their runs came off of walks. Junior, Dylan Bruno called the hitters over. "Lets lay it on them, and not stop." Said Bruno. Trying to motivate the team. This paid off because the Spartans scored 4 on 5 hits after the fact. The Ascenders responded with a pair. Once again, this is a close ball game.

After the rally by IMG. Someone had to step up and put this thing away. Junior, Aidan Wallace found himself in a perfect situation. Wallace was already 1-1 on the day with a single and a walk. Now he finds himself with the bases juiced in the bottom of the sixth. First pitch from IMG to Wallace was an inside sinker almost hitting Wallace. Both teams yelling. Calling "bushleague" and "Thats our plate." Wallace stands back in the box. The pitcher serves him a strike down the plate. Wallace fouls it off. He then battles for seven more pitches. He then finds himself a barrel and sends it into the rightfield gap. One, two, three runs score on Wallaces eighth double of the year. The Spartans tag on 5 more and blow this game wide open. The score at the start of the seventh inning is 15-4 Spartans.

Pitching coach Chris Rubin sends in Freshman, Bradely Dunn to close out the ballgame. This is Dunn's first appearance of the season and is looking to take advantage of his moment. The first batter steps into the box. Dunn throws his first pitch right down the pipe for a called strike. Then it almost looked too easy for the kid. Striking out 2 in his first NCAA collegiate Inning. The game seemed as it was over, because the Spartans owned the night. Dunn goes 2 more innings closing the door on IMG, recording six K's on three innings pitched, with zero runs allowed.

After the game I spoke with Wallace and Dunn, to see where their heads were at during these moments. "What pitch were you looking for in that 3-2 count Aidan? You don't wanna swing at a ball!" "At that moment all I thought was to keep fighting and fouling off pitches until he makes a mistake. He did and I took advantage of it." Wallace said. Taking advantage of these mistakes are what define great hitters. "....And Brad you must have had your flow on the mound tonight right?" "Yeah some days are better than others and today all of my stuff was working, felt confident, overall I am glad we came away with the Win, and I am happy I could contribute to our success..." Dunn said.

So next time your looking for some action The University of Tampa JV Baseball Team puts on a great showing of sports. On campus and free to come. The vibes are in the air watching this team, come on support, and help us win.