

# Big league win just what George School baseball needed

---

By Joe Fite / Correspondent

Posted at 5:00 AM

For most teams, there is a time during the season that ends up being a turning point. George School may have had its turning point last Saturday.

The Cougars were struggling along with a 2-8 record, just 1-4 in the Friends Schools League while Friends' Central came in with a sterling 8-4 mark, 4-1 in the league. You can probably guess what happened.

George School put together a rally in the bottom of the seventh inning and beat the Phoenix, 5-4.

With the game tied, 4-4, Dylan Kirton led off with a walk. Bennett Lichstein bunted him over to second and Kenneth Rodriguez drew an intentional walk. Peter Delaney stepped to the plate and delivered a single up the middle, knocking in Kirton with the winning run.

That the Cougars competed in the game, let alone won, was something of a miracle. Having used up most of his pitching last week, George School coach Vince Campellone went with first baseman Ryan Oster on the mound. Rodriguez, who pitches and plays first base and the outfield, caught.

Campellone has been coaching the Cougars for 32 seasons and has probably seen it all. But Rodriguez made a play Campellone had not seen in a long time. A Friends' Central batter was called out on a third strike, but the ball went off of Rodriguez's glove and rolled to the backstop. He tracked it down and was able to throw the runner out at first. He finished the game with a pair of hits including a fifth-inning homer, two runs batted in and two runs scored.

"They were on fire," Campellone said of Friends' Central. "We did it with smoke and mirrors. But I told them that that they did it with chemistry. I told them that they hadn't had any chemistry all season. But today they played for each other."