

By Jason Epp

• Daily Leader

TURPIN — The Turpin Cardinals picked up two wins over to the Liberal JV Thursday, 10-3 and 5-0, to finish off a 5-0 week.

"I appreciate Liberal bringing their JV down to help give us some more game experience," said Cardinal skipper Mario Mendoza. "We are getting close to districts, and we need opponents the caliber of Liberal to get ready."

In game one, the Redskins took a 1-0 lead when Jared Hall reached on an error and moved to third on a wild pitch, and a second error. Edwin Campos then singled to right to score Hall.

But the lead was short-lived as the Cardinals scored seven in the bottom half of the second, thanks in part to five walks. Cale Longhofer tripled to left-center to drive in three of those runs with two outs.

Liberal battled back in the third with singles by Dalton Rutledge and Dustin Loftis to start the inning. Rutledge and Eric Holder, who reached on a fielder's choice, each scored to lower the deficit to four.

Matt Mendoza doubled in the third to score Chance Dye, who had singled to lead of the inning. Clinton Toney singled to shallow center to score Mendoza, and later scored on Justin McIntyre's single to make the score 10-3 in favor of the Cardinals.

McIntyre shut down the Redskins in the final two innings, allowing no hits, only one walk, and striking out three.

In game two, Andres Grajeda shut out the Redskins, striking out ten, and allowing only two base runners past first base.

In the bottom of the first, Toney reached on a walk, stole second, and scored on a throwing error. McIntyre followed up with a triple to the right-center fence, and scored on Andrew Bowers single to center to make the score 2-0

Chance Dye homered in three runs in the third two break open the 2-0 game, after Grajeda and Longhofer had both singled to left.

Liberal's only real scoring threat came in the fourth when Beau Fick singled to right, and moved to third on Michael Begley's single to deep right-center. But Grajeda ended the threat with a strikeout and dribbler back to the mound for the easy toss-out to first.

"The guys hit the ball well, but we have to stop making mental errors," said Mendoza. "I was pleased with the day. We bunted some people over, and our pitchers did a great job shutting them down."

Turpin was led on offense by Chance Dye who was 3 of 4 with a homerun, 3 RBI, 3 runs scored, and a walk. Cale Longhofer was 3 of 4 with a double and a triple, and Clinton Toney was 2 of 2 with a walk, two runs scored and two RBI.

For the 'Skins Dustin Loftis reached base on 3 of 5 at bats, and Beau Fick was 2 of 4.

Turpin is now 13-2 on the season and will travel to Beaver for a double header Monday. The JV Redskins will host Hays next Thursday.

