

# Sports

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

## BASEBALL

# Engineers win on walk-off RBI in 10th

Joe Saulsbery  
Senior Reporter

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, RPI Baseball hosted the College of St. Joseph (V.T.) Fighting Saints for a non-league game at Robison Field. Pitching dominated as both teams managed just a single run through nine innings of play. In the bottom of the 10th inning, a groundball by senior centerfielder Jared Jensen allowed sophomore pinch runner Matt Lawrence to score the winning run for the Engineers.

RPI senior pitcher Sean Conroy allowed just one base runner in his first three innings, and thanks to a subsequent double play, faced just nine batters in the first three innings. On the mound for St. Joe's, Tyler Kunzmann matched Conroy by holding the Engineers for the first three innings of play. RPI did record hits in each inning, however, and got runners on first and third with one out in the third before Kunzmann squeezed out of the jam with a strikeout.

In the top of the fourth, centerfielder Nester Velazquez doubled into the right field corner with one out. Then, with two outs, Kunzmann helped his own cause by singling past Conroy to put the Fighting Saints on the board.

St. Joseph held a 1-0 lead until the bottom of the seventh. Senior second basemen Tim LeSuer walked to lead off the inning. He subsequently advanced to second on a passed ball. Then,



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

**SENIOR PITCHER SEAN CONROY THROWS a pitch to junior catcher Chris Holomakoff. The Engineers defeated the Fighting Saints 2-1 on Sunday.**

after a sacrifice bunt put LeSuer at third with one out, sophomore right fielder Thomas Desmond hit a groundball to the right side. St. Joseph's fielded the ball and threw it home, but the throw was late, and LeSuer scored to tie the game at one.

In the top of the ninth, the Fighting Saints left fielder Miguel Calderon reached on an RPI fielding error. Velazquez walked to put runners at first and second. Then, right fielder Connor Martin singled to left field and pinch

runner Alec Babyak ran from second to home. RPI freshman left fielder Christian Spagnuola fired home and junior catcher Chris Holomakoff applied the tag to the speedy Babyak. The play saved the tie for the Engineers and the game went to extra innings.

In the top of the 10th, junior pitcher Charles Parslow came on in relief of Conroy and retired all three batters he faced in the inning. In the bottom of the inning, Spagnuola singled past St. Joseph shortstop Jordan Matos with one out. Then, Lawrence pinch ran for Spagnuola. Sophomore Sam Lawrence pinch hit for Holomakoff and walked to put runners on first and second.

Senior designated hitter Tyler Listing walked to load the bases. With one out, Jensen stepped to the plate and hit a slow dribbler past St. Joseph pitcher Eric Carroll, allowing M. Lawrence to score for RPI.

Conroy gave up just four hits and one run and struck out eight Fighting Saints over nine innings of work. Parslow earned the win in relief and improved his record to 3-1. LeSuer tallied two hits, including a double, while Listing, Desmond, and Spagnuola each recorded one.

The Engineers also played two games at Western New England University on Saturday, winning and losing one each. In the first game, Jensen picked up his fourth win of the season, giving up three earned runs in five innings, while sophomore pitcher Adam Aponte earned a save, his second of the season. The Engineers also traveled to Williams College yesterday, defeating the Ephs by a score of 13-4. To round out their regular season, the Engineers will play two games at Robison Field this weekend against Liberty League rival Rochester Institute of Technology.

## MEN'S LACROSSE

# Rensselaer dominant against Raptors

Joe Saulsbery  
Senior Reporter

RPI MEN'S LACROSSE FINISHED ITS REGULAR SEASON LAST SATURDAY AT THE EAST CAMPUS STADIUM against the Bard College Raptors. One period was enough for the Engineers to take firm control of the game, and they won by a final score of 19-1.

In the first period, senior attack John Nolan scored his first goal of the season to put Rensselaer up 1-0. Bard attack Henry Blosfelds responded three minutes later with a goal to tie the score at one. What ensued was 54 minutes of dominance for the Engineers.

Fourteen seconds after Bard tied the score, junior John Phillips put Rensselaer ahead for good with his second goal of the season. Then, Nolan scored again assisted by senior attack Scott Crow to give RPI a 3-1 advantage with 6:26 remaining in the opening quarter. Later, two goals by junior attack Patrick Finn rounded out the scoring in the first period.

Bard found no answer for RPI's speed and strategy, failing to score a goal in the final three periods of play. Meanwhile, Rensselaer took advantage of the mismatch to score 14 goals over the last 45 minutes of the game. Nolan scored five goals to lead the charge for the Engineers. Finn tallied a trio of goals while Crow and standout sophomore attack Breannain McNeally each scored twice. McNeally's two goals in Saturday's game brought him to a regular season total of 35 goals, the fourth most in the Liberty League conference.

In the fourth quarter, sophomore attack Matt Krecicki, freshman midfielder Rhett Adley, senior midfielder Alex Lewek, and freshman attack Zachary Lukas all contributed their first goals of the season, while freshman midfielder Nick LeSaint scored his first collegiate goal 2:38 before halftime. In addition, sophomore midfielder Jake Weidner scored his 22nd goal of the season early in the second period.

In net, sophomore goalie David Gibbs played the first period, allowing one goal on two shots to earn his 10th win of the season. Then, freshman Parker Smith stepped in for the second and third quarters, stopping the lone shot he faced during that span. Finally, junior Troy Manchester came in to close the game, making three saves in the game's final quarter to help the Engineers to a 19-1 win.

The Engineers finished the regular season with a record of 10-5 overall and 4-3 in the Liberty League. Due to a tiebreaker, the Engineers didn't make the Liberty League conference tournament. They still, however, have a chance to make the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III tournament. The field will be announced on May 3.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

**FRESHMAN MIDFIELDER LANE MEYER CHARGES into the Bard zone. The Engineers crushed the visiting Bard Raptors by a final margin of 19-1.**