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Mansfield Jr. Cubs open 2018 season with big win over Bengals

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The Mansfield Jr. Cubs opened the 2018 ball season with a win over the Orangeville Bengals on Monday, May 7.

The first game of the season took place at the diamond in Mansfield.

After taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning then playing to a 2-2 tie at the end of the fifth, the Cubs blew the game wide open in the sixth inning.

A bunt from Kashtin Winchester put two men on base. That was followed up with a drive to right field from Alex Attenborough that loaded the bases with no men out.

Jacob Hall drove in a run on a hit to left.

From there the runs stared piling up as the Bengals started having trouble on the mound with three runs walked in an a couple more hits that brought in additional runs to bring the score up to 11-2 with no outs.

The umpire called the game on the NDBL mercy rule after six innings to give the Cubs their first win of the season.

?I thought all our pitchers did really well,? said Cubs coach Dave Metz. ?Right at the start of the year they are only pitching two innings no matter what happens. That way you get a lot of guys in and you're not going to hurt anyone's arm. We've only had two practices, it's not like the major leagues. It's been hard to get any practices in. We have had a couple so we get the guys in to pitch and tell them not to pitch their hardest today. Next game maybe they'll do an extra inning.?

The late spring this year has caused problems across all outdoor sports with wet fields stopping teams from getting out on the grass.

?I though everybody played really good. For early in the year there was some really good plays. Sometimes it's not about making the really great plays, it's about not screwing up the really easy plays,? Metz said.

The junior division of the NDBL has expanded to include seven teams this year which will make for some lively competition through the season.

The Cubs will be back on their home diamond in Mansfield on Friday, May 25, to host the Lisle Astros.

Game time is 6:30 p.m.