

# Campesinos rally to beat Volcanoes

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
Of the Keizertimes

Campesinos manager Daniel Robertson describes his team as “resilient and relentless.”

The first-place squad lived up to that description on Friday, June 25 in their game against the Volcanoes

After trailing for the majority of the contest, the Campesinos scored a run to tie the game in the top of the eighth, and then exploded for runs in the ninth to defeat the Volcanoes by a score of 8-4.

Rick Phillips went 3-for-5 with a pair of extra-base hits, as well as two RBIs and two runs scored for the Campesinos.

“They fought to the end and it was fun to watch. I enjoy watching our guys play night in and night out,” Robertson said.

A common theme in the Mavericks League over the last few weeks has been players and managers being increasingly discontent with the umpiring — Volcanoes manager Tony Torcato was briefly suspended for bumping an umpire after being ejected — and the issue continued in this one.

In the bottom of the first, after looking at a questionable first-pitch strike, Volcanoes first baseman Nick DiBenedetto was tossed by the home plate umpire for arguing balls and strikes. This was one of several grievances that both teams had with the umpiring crew over the course of the contest.

“Let’s just say it was us versus more than just nine tonight. But I felt like that is



on the  
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Campesinos outfielder Joseph Nunn Jr. sprints towards home plate after rounding third base.  
Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

what made (the win) so special. Our guys didn’t get rattled, they didn’t give in. They just kept playing,” Robertson said.

The Campesinos took the early lead in the top of the first with an RBI-groundout by Patrick Chung, but the Volcanoes responded in the following frame when Drew Schutt crushed a three-run bomb

over the left field fence off Campesinos pitcher Colby Nealy, putting Salem-Keizer up 3-1.

It would be the only blemish on an otherwise stellar outing from Nealy, who threw seven innings and struck out 10, while giving up five hits and three earned runs.

“He is a stud, honestly. Watching him

go out and do his thing was special,” Robertson said.

The Campesinos cut the lead to one in the top of the third thanks to an RBI-single by Phillips, but the Volcanoes got it back in the bottom of the fifth when normally sure-handed shortstop Trevor Morrison committed a throwing error, allowing

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