

# Big ninth-inning gives Campesinos victory over Mavs



Sergio Rey scores one of the Campesinos five runs in the top of the ninth.

Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

**BY MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Campesinos have been atop the standings since the season started in May, and on Friday, July 23, they showed why they are considered the best team in the Mavericks League.

With the score tied 4-4 in the top of the ninth, the Campesinos rallied for five runs in the final frame to defeat the Mavericks by a score of 9-4.

"I hate to keep using the word resilient, but that is what they are. The overwhelming factor for us is these guys never give up. They play every pitch, it doesn't matter what the score is," Campesinos manager Daniel Robertson said. "They are comfortable in close games, and that is what it comes down to. A team that is a

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championship team has got to win the close ones."

The Campesinos scored a pair of

runs in the top of the second to grab the advantage early on. Back-to-back singles from Collin Runge and Trevor Morrison to start the frame put the Campesinos in business. Even though Runge was caught attempting to steal third, a double down the right field line by Eric Whittfield scored Morrison from second and gave the Campesinos a 1-0 lead.

With Whittfield on second and two outs in the frame, Drew Bayard lifted a high but shallow fly ball into center field. After making a poor read on the ball, Mavericks center fielder Alex Emerson tried making a diving

catch, but came up empty handed as Bayard's RBI-bloop pushed the Campesinos lead to 2-0.

The Campesinos extended their advantage to 4-0 in the top of the fourth thanks to a pair of errors from the Mavericks.

Campesinos pitcher Eli Fultz cruised through the Mavericks lineup in the first three innings without giving up a hit. But in the bottom of the fourth, the Mavericks began to chip away at the Campesinos lead.

Joce Phelan broke up the no-no with a hard-hit single to right field. Two batters later, Drake Zarate punched a base hit into center field. The ball was misplayed by the center fielder, Bayard, which allowed Phelan to come around and score the first Mavericks run of the contest.

Sam Lauderdale knocked a seeing-eye RBI-single into left field later in the inning to trim the deficit to 4-2.

However, after giving up two runs in the fourth, Fultz pitched a 1-2-3 frame in the bottom of the fifth. He finished the game with nine strikeouts and gave up two runs and six hits over five innings.

"He was commanding his pitches and pounding the zone," Robertson said. "Eli has been getting better and better every outing. He has been one of those guys that has taken every opportunity in stride."

In the bottom of the sixth, Robertson elected to take his starter out after 79

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