

Liam Evans was our starter in his first appearance of the tournament and threw a very solid first scoreless inning, including two strikeouts. Rae drew a walk and got as far as second but didn't score.

Evans had a quick three up three down second inning. Maguire's hot bat continued when he smashed a double over the centre fielder's head. Armstrong's deep fly ball moved him over to third but he was left stranded there and so the score remained at 0 - 0.

Another good inning from Evans in the 3rd, and then Skepton's lead off hard hit ball was errored. He ended up at second with one out but again we couldn't convert.

It was Netherlands' turn to threaten in the 4th when two consecutive hits saw them with runners on first and third with one out. Evans struck out the next hitter but then they launched a home run over the left field fence. We failed to score and so at the end of four, we were behind 3 - 0.

We hit back in the 5th when Armstrong and Stevens hit consecutive singles, and a Bazzana fielder's choice brought home our first run to make it a 3 - 1 game after five innings.

Both teams had a quick scoreless 6th inning and so the score remained the same as we headed into the 7th when again no runs were scored.

Evans then came out of the game. He'd thrown a terrific seven innings, striking out ten and giving up no walks. They'd only got four hits but unfortunately three of them were bunched in the one inning, including that game changing home run.

The 8th was scoreless and then the 9th produced some controversy. Netherlands led off with a double and their batter attempted to bunt and foul tipped the ball past catcher Burke. But the umpire said it wasn't a foul and the runner went through to third. Our pitcher, catcher, coaching staff and bench all thought it was a foul and despite our repeated requests the umpire, for reasons known only to himself, simply refused to check with the other umpires to see if it was indeed a foul, and so his decision stood. Their next batter hit a bleeder over the infield to score the runner and it was now a 4 - 1 game. The Netherlands may have scored that run anyway through their next hitters but it would have been good to see how it panned out rather than seeing them score in such dubious circumstances. Then in the bottom of the 9th, Myles singled to lead off and was brought in two batters later by a Maguire home run to make it a 4 - 3 ball game. However, we couldn't score again and so we'd lost the game by one run.

Netherlands had played very well to win the game and congratulations to them. They did out hit us bunching three hits in the one inning to score three. To be truthful, we probably had more runners in scoring position, but as I've said in earlier reports, in tournament play at this level you have to make the most of your opportunities when they're presented. To our boys' great credit we fought back in the 9th to make it a one run game. It's now the second game of the tournament where we've lost by just the one run and a questionable call has gone against us at a crucial time.

But we live to fight another day, if we beat Canada tomorrow we make the top three, and if we lose, we don't. This game is the one that got rained out yesterday and the starting time tomorrow is yet to be confirmed.