

# SPORTS



A Tiger catches a fly ball

Photos by MERCER HARRIS



Nathan Durham slings a pitch

## Tigers beat Elbert County Blue Devils 13-5

The Washington-Wilkes Tigers baseball team beat Elbert County 13-5 in the first game of the season.

The Tigers leapt to an early lead scoring 3 runs in the top of the second inning. Robert Hunt kicked things off with a single to left field. Levi Durham reached first base after getting hit by a pitch. Jackson Thornton laid down a sacrifice bunt to put runners at second and third base with only one out. Nick Harkins walked to make the bases loaded with 1 out. Bryson Porter was at the plate in a two-strike count before smacking the ball to the Blue Devil third basemen. The play resulted in an error that allowed Hunt to score. Mason Wheatley then came up and batted a shot to right field that allowed Durham and Harkins to score.

Elbert County scored one run in bottom of the frame and two in the bottom of the third inning

to tie the game heading into the fifth inning. The Tigers managed to score two runs at the top of the fifth. Hunter Price lead the Tiger offense that inning with a walk. Trace Callaway sacrifice bunted Price to second base. Nathan Durham then smacked a hit to deep center field that resulted in a triple and allowed Price to score. The Tigers scored the second run of the inning when Harkins was hit by pitch with the bases loaded, moving Durham to score. The Tigers never relinquished their lead after carrying it by one run into the 6th inning.

Defensively, Nathan Durham started on the mound pitching the first four innings of the game. He gave up four runs (only one of which scored) and managed seven strikeouts. Morgan Shedd pitched the fifth inning in shutout fashion, only allowing one hit. Robert Hunt pitched the sixth and seventh innings allowing one

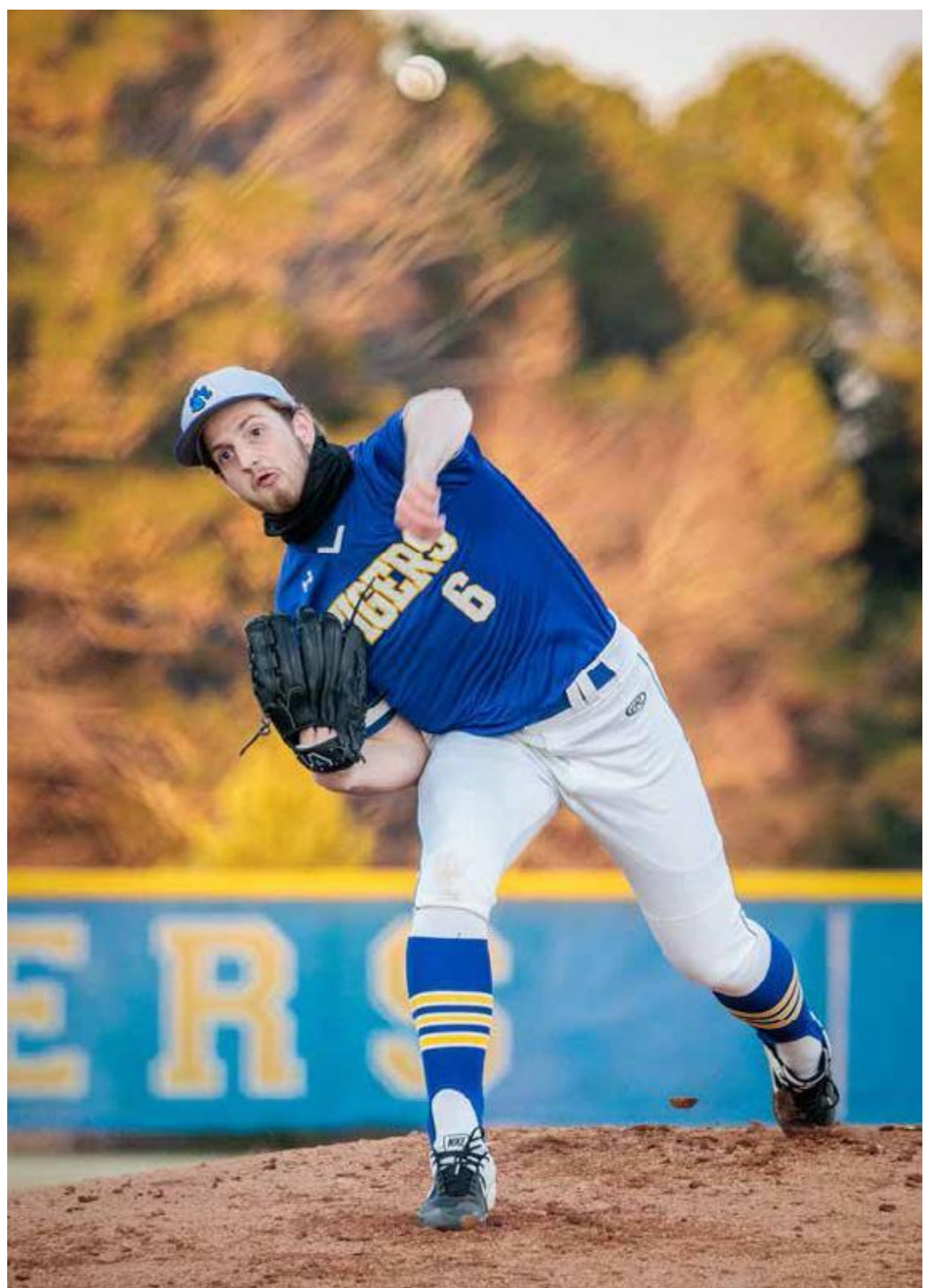
run on one hit and managing five strikeouts.

Offensively the Tigers were led by Levi Durham who was three to three with four RBIs and two doubles. Thornton and Wheatley were each two to four with a total of three RBIs between them. Nathan Durham, Robert Hunt, and Bryson Porter each had hits as well. "I was proud of how we handled ourselves at the plate. We looked comfortable with two strikes on us, and we made their defense and pitching staff work hard to get us out," Head baseball Coach Drew Wilson said of the team's first game. "Defensively, we have a few things we need to tighten up, but it wasn't bad for opening day." The Tigers also beat Oglethorpe County in a scrimmage a few days prior to the Elbert County game.

Up next the Tigers will travel to Wilkinson County on Monday, February 21 for a game at 4 p.m.



Hunter Price fields a ground ball



Robert Hunt pitches from the mound against Oglethorpe County

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