

When Patrick '16 came down with the stomach flu on Monday, the baseball's team's pitching plans for its Bay Counties League-Central matchup with Gateway were on the brink of disarray. But the 10th-grader was well enough to take the mound on Tuesday, and by the end of the Breakers' 12-0 victory, he wasn't the only one feeling queasy. All the Gators were, too.

The sophomore faced 15 Gateway batters and retired every one of them for the first perfect game in the baseball program's history.

Patrick had excellent command of his two pitches, a fastball and breaking ball, from the moment he took the mound until the third out in the top of the fifth. He sent down the first Gator on a comebacker and seven of the remaining 14 on strikeouts, six of them looking. None of his 61 pitches left the infield.

"He pounded the zone and got ahead early," head coach Sean Engmann said, praising Patrick's vastly improved control, which eluded him at times during his freshman season. A summer spent honing his mechanics served Patrick well in what was also his first-ever high school shutout.

As is often the case with gems, from Little League to the majors, Patrick's perfecto was kept intact by two key defensive plays, which came back-to-back in the top of the fourth inning. The second batter of the frame hit a slow grounder into no-man's land behind the mound, but Jason '14 denied his bid for an infield single with a quick release that nabbed him on a close play at first base. Nick '16 followed with a tumbling catch on a softly hit popup to bring Patrick to within three outs of perfection.

The Breakers made it easy for Patrick to focus on throwing strikes by putting six runs on the board in the home half of the first. Nick led off the game with a walk and came around to score on a single by Doug '17. That was all the support Patrick would need, but he got two more runs on a knock by Jack '14 and another pair thanks to Sam '14, as Bay batted around in the opening frame.

The offense continued to add on, doing its loudest work in the third. Nick led off the inning with a double down the right-field line, his first-ever extra-base hit for the Breakers, and Jason followed with a two-run homer to deep left, which reached the adjacent Garrigan Diamond at the Moscone Rec Center, traveling some 350 feet before it hit the grass.

When Patrick punched out the last two batters of the victory, though, the sophomore was the toast of the team. Jack, who caught all five innings of the perfecto—just as he did in Jason's no-hitter at Pescadero last March 26—handed the 10th-grader the game ball, as the Breakers mobbed him in the postgame huddle.

"You should get the stomach flu more often," Engmann told his pitcher moments later. To which Patrick—in true Patrick fashion—replied, "I feel like I still have it."

- Daniel Rathman