

Friday Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, Week 2

Friday Night the DBES staff team squared off against the expansion team from Sanders Memorial Elementary, led by former Rancher, Ms. Brickman. With Ms. Kaylyn still missing from the Ranchers line-up the Ranchers hobbled into the game, still reeling from the blow dealt in last weeks' drubbing by Richey Elementary.

The Thursday afternoon practice session payed dividends right away, as participating players saw marked and measurable improvements in their respective performances. Notably, Mr. Collins, who was zero for three going into Friday night's game, turned it around and had two hits and a reached-by-error. Mrs. Giammalvo and Mrs. Noble also saw improvement in their offensive performance as evidenced by this game footage. Mrs. Taylor also had a highlight reel catch at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Coach Klauka pitched a whale of a game and was noticeably positive throughout the night. That is, up until the last half inning.

The Ranchers held a commanding 4-0 lead going into the final half inning of the game and confidently took the field, hopeful to end it quickly and get to .500 on the season. A quick no-out-walk to a Sanders player put two people on base instantly. The Ranchers were then assaulted by a barrage of heavy hitting from the previously unremarkable line-up of Sanders. When all was said and done Sanders completed the come-back and won by a score of 5-4.

A visibly frustrated Coach Klauka said: "we won the game for a full hour, only to lose in the last two and a half minutes".

The Ranchers tried to remain positive as they left the field, but it was apparent that this was a tough loss. Mrs. Klauka encouraged the team as they packed up their belongings: "Hey, we did better than last week guys!"

The Ranchers have an up-hill battle this week as they face off against their perennial rivals: the MIGHTY Seven Oaks Eagles. The game will be held at the New Tampa Rec Center Field at 705PM. Good luck Ranchers!