

BOROUGH SPORTS

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

S.I. Yanks win on special night

Baby Bombers snap skid with 8-4 victory on Kids Against Cancer Night

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Nine-year-old cancer survivor Katie Gaglione threw the first strike down the middle Friday night at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark.

The Staten Island Yankees took over from there, snapping a five-game losing streak with a 8-4 victory over the Aberdeen IronBirds.

The courageous St. Patrick's School third-grader, who was diagnosed nearly five years ago with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, joined a large Kids Against Cancer Night crowd supported by staffers and volunteers from Staten Island University Hospital.

Katie Gaglione has been declared cancer-free after a long fight that included treatment at NYU Medical Center. The local group continues an ongoing fundraising campaign in opening a Pediatric Cancer Center at SIUH.

"She has a perfect bill of health," said her mother, Vanessa Gaglione. "You could say she kicked cancer's butt."

A group of kids, including 10-year-old Emeli Alea and 7-year-old twin brothers Kyle and Aidan Colamaria, were introduced during a fifth-inning "Home Run For Life," running the bases to bring

attention to Kids Against Cancer and SIUH's Pediatric Cancer Unit.

On the field, the Yankees banged out 15 hits in one of their top offensive performances as Kyle Holder and Junior Valera delivered three hits apiece. Kevin Cornelius added two doubles and two RBI, Zach Zehner drove in two runs and Valera three.

The Baby Bombers (20-18) jumped out to a 2-0 first-inning lead and scored one run in four consecutive innings before adding two runs in the seventh.

Venezuelan right-handed starter Luis Cedenó allowed one run in four innings, lowering his earned run average to 2.23, and reliever Joshua Rogers came out of the bullpen for three scoreless innings, yielding one hit while striking out five while earning his first save.

NOTES: The Yankees wore special Kids Against Cancer jerseys and 1,000 of the jerseys were given to fans ... There was a post-game fireworks show Friday night and there will be another on Saturday night for "Jason Arnold Bobblehead Night." The 36-year-old Florida native is the only Staten Island Yankee to throw a no-hitter — an 8-0 shutout (with 15 strikeouts) at Burlington, Vt., on July 27, 2001.

Arnold will be on hand to throw out the first pitch and sign autographs during the game.



Staten Island's Jhalan Jackson, sporting the special Kids Against Cancer jersey, hits against Aberdeen.

(STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/BILL LYONS)



Cancer survivor Katie Gaglione, 9, gets ready to throw out first pitch Friday night joined by mom Vanessa, dad Vincent, and brother Vincent Jr. (STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JIM WAGGONER)