

Kernels tag Clinton in 13 innings

Written by S.D. Buhr

Saturday, 02 May 2015 22:45 - Last Updated Monday, 04 May 2015 07:34



It took only two batters for the Cedar Rapids Kernels to accomplish something Saturday night that they failed to do in nine innings on Friday night: Get a hit off a Clinton pitcher.

It took the home team 13 innings and four hours, however, to end their three-game losing streak and beat the LumberKings, 7-6, in front of a fireworks-night crowd of 2,342 at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

After Tanner English led off the Kernels' half of the first inning with a walk, Nick Gordon lined a single to left field for the first of what would be 12 Cedar Rapids hits.

Gordon saved his real heroics for the bottom of the ninth inning, when his two-out single to right field plated T.J. White with the tying run and sent the game to extra innings at 6-6.

White gave an encore performance in the bottom of the 13th inning, lining a triple to the right-field corner to start the inning and scoring the winning run on a shallow fly ball by Pat Kelly.

"At first, I really didn't think I was going to have a chance to tag," White said. "The left fielder kind of made a bad read on it and he was kind of falling back. So Jake (Manager Jake Mauer) was like, 'Go ahead, Go

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ahead.' At that point, I knew I had to get going and take off."

Kernels starting pitcher Michael Cederoth surrendered the first three Clinton runs during his four innings of work, but all three runs came across with the aid of three Kernels errors, making each of those runs unearned.

Cederoth, the Minnesota Twins' third-round draft choice in 2014 following a successful season as San Diego State University's closer, is being converted to a starting pitcher by the Twins. The strong-armed right-hander struck out seven Clinton hitters in four innings, but also walked five.

Clinton tallied three more runs off reliever Randy LeBlanc during his two innings of work, but C.K. Irby, Cam Booser and Trevor Hildenberger combined to throw seven innings of two-hit, shutout relief for Cedar Rapids.

In total, Cedar Rapids pitchers struck out 19 Clinton batters.

The Kernels had a chance to win the game in the 11th inning when lead-off hitter Tanner English lined a hit that got past Clinton center fielder Luis Liberato for a triple. But English got the go-ahead sign from Mauer at third base and was thrown out easily at the plate following a near-perfect relay by the LumberKings.

"When the (relay) throw went over the shortstop, I thought the second baseman wasn't going to throw him out," Mauer explained. "He made a helluva throw, that kid. Surprised the hell out of me."

Catcher Brett Doe, who joined the Kernels from Extended Spring Training less than two weeks ago, homered on a line drive into the left-field porch in the third inning.

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Cedar Rapids pulled to within a run in the sixth inning with a pair of runs on a walk, three singles and a sacrifice fly, but they left the potential tying and lead runs on base.

Gordon had three hits for the Kernels, all singles. Tyler Kuresa had a pair of singles and White had an RBI single in the sixth inning to go with his 13th-inning triple.

Clinton and Cedar Rapids will play the rubber match of their three-game series Sunday at 2:05 p.m.

CLINTON (6): Ward, 2b, 6 1 2 0, Liberato, cf, 6 1 2 0, Morales, dh, 6 0 1 1, DeCarlo, 3b, 1 0 0 0, Fernandez, 3b, 5 1 0 0, Jackson, rf, 6 0 1 0, Taylor, lf, 5 1 1 0, Torres, c, 4 1 1 1, Brito, 1b, 5 0 1 0, Mariscal, ss, 5 1 0 0. Totals 49 6 9 2.

KERNELS (7): English, cf, 5 1 1 0, Gordon, ss, 6 0 3 2, Larson, rf, 5 1 0 0, Fernandez, dh, 6 0 0 0, Murphy, lf, 5 1 1 0, Kuresa, 1b, 6 0 2 0, White, 3b, 4 2 2 1, Doe, c, 5 1 1 2, Hinojosa, 2b, 2 1 1 0, Vavra, ph, 1 0 1 0, Kelly, 2b, 1 0 0 1. Totals 46 7 12 6.

Clinton 020 112 000 000 - 6 9 0
Kernels 102 002 001 001 - 7 12 3

Herb, Pierce (6), Kiel (8), Miller (9), Morales (11) and Torres. Cederoth, LeBlanc (5), Irby (7), Booser (9), Hildenberger (11) and Doe. W - Hildenberger (1-1). L - Morales (0-3). 2B - Jackson (5), Morales (7), Hinojosa (1). 3B - English (1), White (2). HR - Doe (1). E - Hinojosa 2 (4), White (4). SB - Hinojosa (2). T - 4:00. A - 2,342.