

Kernels end 1st half with 41-29 mark

Written by Jared Shlensky

Sunday, 21 June 2015 16:29 - Last Updated Monday, 22 June 2015 10:17



CLINTON - Five scoreless innings from the bullpen paced Cedar Rapids to a 5-2 win over the Clinton LumberKings Sunday afternoon in a Midwest League game at Ashford University Field in Clinton.

Randy LeBlanc (5-0) recorded the win in the series finale. He retired eight in a row at one point and allowed just two hits while striking out two in three scoreless innings of relief.

LeBlanc's three scoreless innings extended his consecutive scoreless innings streak to 26, tying him with Trevor Hildenberger for the team lead.

Hildenberger picked up his team-leading eighth save in a scoreless bottom of the ninth. He struck out all three hitters he faced in his one inning of relief.

Jared Wilson recorded a no-decision for Cedar Rapids. The All-Star allowed one run on four hits and a walk while striking out two in four innings. Cam Booser allowed one run on two hits and a walk while striking out two in one inning.

Jeffeson Medina (2-7) suffered the loss for Clinton. The right-hander allowed three runs on four hits, two walks and hit two batters while striking out three in three innings.

Cedar Rapids (41-29) took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the second. Brett Doe led off the frame with an infield single for the first Cedar Rapids hit of the contest. T.J. White reached first after begin hit by a pitch, giving the Kernels runners on first and second with no outs.

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Two batters later, Rafael Valera brought in the Kernels' first run with an RBI single to left, plating Doe from second.

Clinton (26-43) countered with a run in the bottom of the second. Joe DeCarlo started the inning with a one-out double to left-center. Two batters later, Gianfranco Wawoe plated DeCarlo with an RBI single down the left-field line, tying the game at 1-1.

Cedar Rapids regained the lead with two runs in the top of the third. Alex Real started the frame with a one-out double to left-center. Two batters later, Max Murphy put the Kernels up 3-1 with a two-run home run to left-center. The homer for Murphy was his fourth of the year and his second in as many games.

The Kernels extended their lead to 5-1 with two more runs in the top of the fifth. Real led off with a single to center. Murphy followed with a double down the left-field line, advancing Real to third.

A Jarrett Brown balk advanced Murphy to third and brought in Real to score. Two batters later, Pat Kelly drew a two-out walk, giving the Kernels runners on the corners. Murphy stole home with Kelly in a rundown for the final run of the inning.

Clinton cut the Cedar Rapids lead to 5-2 with a run in the bottom of the eighth. Wayne Taylor led off with an infield single. Chris Mariscal drew a walk, giving Clinton runners on first and second.

Chantz Mack followed with a single to right, loading the bases for the LumberKings. Kristian Brito brought in Taylor with a sacrifice fly to center.

Murphy, Real and Valera led Cedar Rapids with two hits each. Murphy finished 2-for-4 with a double and a two-run home run. Real went 2-for-5 with a double and two runs while Valera finished 2-for-3 with an RBI single and a walk.

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The Kernels are idle until Thursday. The Midwest All-Star Game is Tuesday night in Peoria, Ill.

Wilson, Felix Jorge, Hildenberger and Booser will represent Cedar Rapids for the West Division. Trey Vavra also made the all-star team, but is currently on the disabled list. First pitch in the All-Star game is at 7 p.m. from Dozer Park.

Cedar Rapids opens the second half of the season on Thursday at home against the Quad Cities River Bandits. First pitch in the series opener is at 6:35 p.m. from Perfect Game Field at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

KERNELS (5): English, cf, 1 0 0 0, Fernandez, rf, 3 0 0 0, Corcino, rf/cf, 5 0 0 0, Larson, lf, 4 0 0 0, Real, c, 5 2 2 0, Murphy, dh, 4 2 2 2, Doe, 1b, 3 1 1 0, White, 3b, 2 0 0 0, Kelly, 2b, 3 0 0 0, Valera, ss, 3 0 2 1.
Totals 33 5 7 3.

CLINTON (2): Fields, cf, 3 0 0 0, Taylor, c, 4 1 2 0, Mariscal, 2b, 3 0 1 0, Mack, lf, 4 0 2 0, Brito, 1b, 3 0 0 1, DeCarlo, dh, 3 1 1 0, Zeutenhorst, rf, 4 0 0 0, Wawoe, 3b, 4 0 1 1, Caballero, ss, 4 0 1 0.
Totals 32 2 8 2.

Kernels □ □ **012 020 000 - 5 7 0**

Clinton □ □ **010 000 010 - 2 8 0**

Wilson, LeBlanc (5), Booser (8), Hildenberger (9) and Real. Medina, Brown, (4), Dominguez (7), Buchanan (8) and Taylor. W - LeBlanc (5-0). L - Medina (2-7). S - Hildenberger (8). 2B - Real (4), Murphy (10), DeCarlo (9). HR - Murphy (4). SB - Doe (3). T - 2:35.