

Kernels tumble at Kane County

Written by Metro Sports Report

Monday, 13 July 2015 16:13 - Last Updated Monday, 13 July 2015 16:25

GENEVA, Ill. - The Cedar Rapids Kernels fell to the Kane County Cougars, 4-2, in their series finale Monday afternoon before 6,547 fans at Fifth Third Bank Ballpark.

The win gave Kane County its seventh straight series win.

Cedar Rapids (52-37) took the opening lead for the third time in the series with an unearned run in the top of the first. Tanner English led off the ballgame with a double to left field. Nick Gordon drew a walk, giving the Kernels runners on first and second.

A Josh Taylor wild pitch advanced English to third and Gordon to second. Two batters later, Max Murphy reached on a throwing error. The error allowed English to score from third.

Kane County (52-35) countered with a run in the bottom of the first. Ildemaro Vargas led off with a double to left-center. Chuck Taylor followed Vargas with a walk, giving the Cougars runners on first and second.

Colin Bray reached on a fielder's choice, giving Kane County runners on the corners with one out. Joe Munoz tied the game at 1-1 with a sacrifice fly to center.

The Kernels took a 2-1 lead with a run in the seventh. English reached base for the third time with a two-out single to right. Gordon followed English with an RBI double to right field.

Kane County grabbed a 3-2 lead, its first advantage of the afternoon, with two runs in the seventh. Munoz led off with a single to left. Two batters later, Quinton Mack was hit on the left shoulder, giving the Cougars

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runners on first and second.

Henry Castillo tied the game, 2-2, with an RBI single. Two batters later, Victor Reyes drew a walk, loading the bases full of Cougars. Vargas gave Kane County a 3-2 edge with a bases-loaded walk.

Kane County extended its lead to 4-2 in the eighth. Bray reached on a Kernels fielding error to begin the frame. Munoz followed Bray with a single to right-center, giving the Cougars runners on the corners with no outs. Cody Regis extended the Cougars' with an RBI single.

English finished 2-for-4 with two runs scored, a stolen base and a double. Gordon extended his hitting streak to a team-best 13 games and his on-base streak to a team-best 16 games with a walk and the RBI double.

Luke Westphal recorded a no-decision in his third start for Cedar Rapids. The southpaw retired the last 10 batters he faced and allowed one run on three hits and one walk while striking out three in a season-high six innings.

Randy LeBlanc (6-2) suffered the loss for Cedar Rapids. The right-hander allowed three runs (two earned) on four hits and two walks in two innings.

Nick Baker (5-1) earned the win for Kane County. The right-hander allowed one run on two hits and struck out a pair in two innings of relief.

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The Kernels return home to begin a three-game series Wednesday night at 6:35 against the Burlington Bees. Felix Jorge (4-3, 2.00) gets the start for Cedar Rapids.

KERNELS (2): English, cf, 4 2 2 0, Gordon, ss, 3 0 1 1, Corcino, rf, 3 0 0 0, Doe, 1b, 4 0 0 0, Murphy, lf, 4 0 0 0, Larson, dh, 4 0 1 0, Valera, 3b, 4 0 1 0, Navarreto, c, 4 0 0 0, Miller, 2b, 4 0 1 0. Totals 34 2 6 1.

KANE COUNTY (4): Vargas, ss, 3 1 1 1, Taylor, rf, 3 0 1 0, Bray, cf, 4 1 0 0, Munoz, 3b, 3 1 2 1, Regis, 1b, 4 0 1 1, Mack, dh, 3 1 0 0, Castillo, 2b, 3 0 2 1, Cribbs, pr/2b, 1 0 0 0, Soto, c, 3 0 0 0, Reyes, lf, 2 0 0 0.

Totals 29 4 7 4.

Kernels 100 000 100 - 2 6 1

Kane County 100 000 21x - 4 7 1

Westphal, LeBlanc (7) and Navarreto. Taylor, Baker (6), Martinez (8), Curtis (9) and Soto. W - Baker (5-1). L - LeBlanc (6-2). S - Curtis (19).

2B - English (13), Gordon (12), Vargas (12). SB - Bray (15), Taylor (5), Cribbs (2). E - Valera (3), Mynoz (16). T - 2:27. A - 6,547.