

Kernels take series from Clinton

Written by Morgan Hawk

Thursday, 30 July 2015 21:58 - Last Updated Thursday, 30 July 2015 22:07

CLINTON - The Cedar Rapids Kernels claimed their third straight series with a 9-5 win over the Clinton LumberKings on Thursday night before 2,086 fans at Ashford University Field.

Every Kernels hitter except one recorded at least one hit in the series finale.

Ethan Mildren (4-1) earned the win in relief. Mildren allowed three runs on five hits and one walk while striking out two in 2 ²/₃ innings.

Jared Wilson recorded the save. The right-hander yielded one hit and two walks while striking out a pair in 2 ²/₃ scoreless innings out of the bullpen.

Zack Tillery finished with a no-decision in his start for Cedar Rapids. The right-hander did not allow a hit through the first three innings and allowed two runs on two hits and four walks while striking out five over 3 ²/₃ innings.

Tyler Herb (4-8) suffered the loss for Clinton. The right-hander allowed six runs on nine hits and two walks while striking out a pair in six innings.

Cedar Rapids (61-43) struck first with a two-out run in the top of the first. Nick Gordon recorded the first hit of the evening with a two-out double down the left field line.

Zack Larson followed Gordon with an RBI single down the right field line, plating Gordon from second. The RBI for Larson was his team-leading 47th of the year.

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The Kernels extended their lead to 5-0 with four runs in the top of the fourth. Tyler Kuresa started the inning with a one-out single to center field. Brett Doe followed Kuresa with an RBI double down the left field line, scoring Kuresa from first.

Alex Real made it a 4-0 contest with a two-run home run to left. The home run was Real's third of the season. Two batters later, Pat Kelly doubled to right. Tanner English then extended the Kernels lead to five with a two-out RBI double to left, plating Kelly from second.

Clinton (33-70) trimmed the Cedar Rapids lead to 5-2 with two runs in the bottom of the fourth.

Cedar Rapids went back up by four, 6-2, with a run in the fifth. Gordon started the inning with a single to left. He then swiped second, his 23rd stolen base of the year. Gordon later moved to third on a wild pitch before Doe made it 6-2 with an RBI groundout.

The LumberKings cut the Kernels' lead back to two runs at 6-4 in the sixth. Clinton reduced the Cedar Rapids lead to 6-5 with a run in the bottom of the seventh.

The Kernels extended their lead to 8-5 with two runs in the top of the eighth. Real led off the inning with a single to right. Austin Diemer followed Real with a two-run home run to left-center. The two-run blast was Diemer's first Midwest League home run.

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Cedar Rapids scored the final run of the game with a two-out run in the top of the ninth. Kuresa drew a two-out walk before advancing to second on a wild pitch. Doe followed Kuresa with an RBI single to center, increasing the Kernels lead to 9-5.

Doe, Gordon and Real led the Kernels' offense with two hits each. Doe finished the evening 2-for-5 with a game-high three RBIs and a double.

Gordon went 2-for-5 with two runs, a stolen base and a double. Real finished 2-for-5 with a two-run home run and two runs. Gordon's two-out double in the top of the first extended his on-base streak to eight games.

English's walk in the top of the third extended his on-base streak to 12 games. English went 2-for-4 with a game-high three stolen bases and an RBI double.

Larson extended his personal-best hitting streak to nine games with a two-out RBI single in the top of the first while Kelly extended his personal-best hitting streak to five games with a double in the fourth. Kelly's double also extended his personal-best on-base streak to eight games.

Kuresa's single in the top of the fourth extended his personal-best on-base streak to eight games. Kuresa reached base a game-high four times and finished the evening 1-for-2 with three walks and two runs.

The Kernels stole six bases in the game.

The Kernels begin a three-game series Friday night at Kane County.

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KERNELS (9): English, cf, 4 0 2 1, Valera, 3b, 5 0 0 0, Gordon, ss, 5 2 2 0, Larson, lf, 4 0 1 1, Kuresa, 1b, 2 2 1 0, Doe, c, 5 1 2 3, Real, dh, 4 2 2 2, Diemer, rf, 5 1 1 2, Kelly, 2b, 4 1 1 0. Totals 38 9 12 9.

CLINTON (5): Cousino, cf, 4 0 0 0, Fields, lf, 4 1 1 0, Hebert, ss, 5 0 2 0, Morales, rf, 5 0 0 1, Wawoe, 2b, 3 1 0 0, DeCarlo, 3b, 3 1 1 0, Leyland, 1b, 4 2 2 2, Alfonso, c, 3 0 1 1, Peguero, dh, 3 0 1 1. Totals 34 5 8 5.

Kernels ▯ 100 410 021 - 9 12 0

Clinton ▯ 000 202 100 - 5 ▯ 8 0

Tillery, Mildren (4), Wilson (7) and Doe. Herb, Dominguez (7), Buchanan (9) and Alfonso. W - Mildren (4-1). L - Herb (4-6). S - Wilson (3). 2B - Gordon (16), Doe (10), Kelly (12), English (14), Leyland 2 (5), Alfonso (3). HR - Real (3), Diemer (1). SB - Larson 2 (14), English 3 (33), Gordon (23). T - 3:07. A - 2,086.