Written by Jim Ecker Tuesday, 13 May 2014 22:16 - Last Updated Tuesday, 13 May 2014 22:38



The Cedar Rapids Kernels were battered, bruised and beaten Tuesday night.

Twice.

Peoria swept the wounded Kernels, 4-3 and 6-4, in a Midwest League twinbill before 1,927 fans at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

The injury-prone Kernels lost two more players in the opener when shortstop Engelb Vielma pulled a hamstring muscle and center fielder Jason Kanzler suffered a possible concussion when he collided with second baseman Tanner Vavra on a pop fly.

Vielma and Kanzler both left the game and did not play in the nightcap, leaving Cedar Rapids skipper Jake Mauer with only one able-bodied sub on the bench.

The Kernels have already had seven players spend time on the Disabled List this season, forcing Mauer to mix and match as best he can. Mauer indicated Vielma and Kanzler are headed to the DL as well.

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Mauer will be asking the Minnesota Twins organization for replacement players in time for Wednesday night's doubleheader against Peoria at 5:05 p.m.

"We're not going to wait around. Having only one extra guy ain't going to work," he said. "They're going to have to send a couple of guys up. Who it's going to be, I don't know right now."

The entire Minnesota organization has been pestered by injuries this season, thinning the ranks of players who might be available in Extended Spring Training in Florida.

"There are no outfielders left down there, no infielders left," said Mauer. "I don't know who else can come up."



The only available subs Tuesday night were catcher Mitch Garver in the first game and catcher Michael Quesada in the second game, although both guys can play first base and other spots in an emergency.

Mauer said he's never seen a string of injuries like this before, all in the first six weeks of the season.

"No. Not to this extent," he said. "It's weird."

Vielema hurt his hamstring while trying to leave a moist-looking batters box on a ground ball in the bottom of the first inning in the opener. He limped down the first-base line and left the game.

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Kanzler and Vavra collided in the top of the fifth inning while chasing a fly ball in short center field. Vavra caught the ball, but it appeared his foot clipped Kanzler in the head as Kanzler slid to the grass.

Mauer said Kanzler was "fuzzy" when trainer Curtis Simondet reached Kanzler, who was lying on the grass in short center field. Mauer thinks Kanzler lost consciousness for about 10 seconds.

"He said he felt like he got punched in the face," Mauer said. "You have to be careful with those head injuries."

Mauer said Kanzler has not failed any concussion tests, but he could be headed to the Disabled List as a precaution and to make room for another player.

"We can't go with one guy on the bench going into tomorrow," said Mauer. "We have to get somebody here. We have to get some bodies up here."

The twin losses left Cedar Rapids with a 19-18 record.

GAME 1

PEORIA (4): McElroy, cf, 4 0 1 0, Herrera, ss, 4 2 3 0, Kelly, c, 4 1 3 1, Castillo, rf, 4 0 0 1, Peoples-Walls, dh, 3 1 1 1, Valera, 3b, 3 0 2 1, Bosco, lf, 2 0 0 0, Katz, 2b, 3 0 1 0, Stone, 1b, 3 0 0 0. Totals 30 4 11 4.

KERNELS (3): Vavra, 2b, 2 0 0 0, Vielma, ss, 1 0 0 0, Licon, ss, 2 0 0 0, Williams, If/cf, 3 0 0 0, Christensen, 1b/If, 2 1 0 0, Haar, 3b, 3 1 1 0, Kanzler, cf, 1 1 1 2, Altobelli, 1b, 1 0 0 0, Quesada, c, 2 0 0 0, Santy, dh, 3 0 0 0, Thomas, rf, 2 0 0 0. Totals 22 3 2 2.

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Peoria 100 030 0 - 4 11 1 Kernels 000 300 0 - 3 2 1

Alex Reyes, Loraine (7) and Kelly. Mildren, Muren (6) and Quesada. W - Reyes (3-1). L - Mildren (0-2). S - Loraine (3). 2B - Herrera (8), Kelly (5), Valera (5), Kanzler (3). 3B - Valera (2). SB - Herrera (12). E - Kelly (3), Vavra (3). T - 1:59.

GAME 2

PEORIA (6): McElroy, cr, 3 1 1 0, Valera, 2b, 2 1 2 0, Herrera, ss, 4 1 1 3, Castillo, dh, 4 1 0 1, Peoples-Walls, If, 2 0 0 0, Bean, c, 2 0 1 1, Young, rf, 2 1 0 0, Katz, 1b, 2 0 0 0, Schulze, 3b, 3 1 1 1. Totals 24 6 6 6.

KERNELS (4): Williams, cf, 3 1 1 0, Vavra, 2b, 3 0 0 0, Christensen, If, 4 0 0 0, Haar, 3b, 3 2 3 2, Garver, dh, 3 1 0 0, Altobelli, 1b, 4 0 3 1, Santy, c, 4 0 1 0, Licon, ss, 4 0 0 0, Thomas, rf, 2 0 0 0. Totals 30 4 8 3.

Peoria 005 001 0 - 6 6 2 Kernels 200 020 0 - 4 8 2

Artura Reyes, Perry (5), Thomas (7) and Bean. Montanez, Wilson (6), Boyd (7) and Santy. W-Perry (2-0). L - Montanez (0-2). S - Thomas (5). 2B - Schulze (3). 3B - Herrera (3). HR - Haar (6). E - Schulze (5), Valera (5), Montanez (2), Vavra (4). T - 2:22. A - 1,927.