

Meet Brett Doe: New Kernels star

Written by Jim Ecker

Saturday, 30 May 2015 21:46 - Last Updated Saturday, 30 May 2015 21:54



They made a classic movie in 1941 called "Meet John Doe," starring Barbara Stanwyck and Gary Cooper as Doe.

Now it's time to meet Brett Doe, who is hitting .311 for the Cedar Rapids Kernels after being one of the last players selected in the 2014 draft.

Doe snapped a 1-1 tie with a two-run double Saturday night as the Kernels topped Clinton, 5-1, before 2,312 fans at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Doe, who turns 25 in two weeks, has become an unlikely star for the Kernels. He was primarily a shortstop at Baylor University, but was drafted as a catcher by the Twins last year in the latter stages of the selection process.

Doe was left behind in Extended Spring Training when the Kernels headed north in April with their 25-man roster, but he's made up for lost time since joining the club April 20.

Doe was disappointed when the Kernels broke camp without him, leaving him behind in Florida.

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"Absolutely," he said. "I played with all these guys in Elizabethton (last summer). You're around them so much. I love these guys. It was tough, staying there and watching all of them take off and leave."

Doe played shortstop at Navarro Junior College, helping them win the national junior college title in 2011, and played shortstop at Baylor for two years. He figures he caught about 15 games at Baylor, but the Twins liked him behind the plate and made it perfectly clear why they did not want him as a shortstop.

"You're slow," he said they told him, laughing. "If you want to keep playing, get some gear and get behind the plate. But I love catching, getting to be in every pitch and working with the pitchers. You learn a lot.

"It's probably helped my hitting, too, because I know what the pitcher is thinking. A little bit better - I don't always know. You get a better feel for the game."

Doe hit only .207 in 23 games at Elizabethton in the Rookie League last year, but he's raised his batting average by more than 100 points with the Kernels in 17 games. He got off to a relatively slow start in Cedar Rapids, but has been hot lately.

Kernels Manager Jake Mauer said Doe was trying to hit the ball 500 feet when he first joined the team, which led to easy outs.

"I got up here and I was thinking, 'I've got to do something to show them I belong,' and that wasn't the right approach," Doe acknowledged.

"It's still a small sample size," he said about his 61 at-bats with the Kernels. "It's a long season, so I'm trying not to look at stats and try to keep the approach I've had."

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"Even when I'm getting out right now, it's usually on a decent swing in a count that I want to be in. I don't want to think of myself as some great hitter and think too highly of myself."

Doe did not know if would get drafted last year or not. The draft lasts 40 rounds, and the Twins did not call his name until the 38th.

"I was holding my breath during the draft, not knowing if I was going to have to get another job," he said. "I think that honestly helps me a ton, to not ever take anything for granted."

"I'm just thankful for every day I get to show up and still be playing this great game."

Doe knows about "Meet John Doe" and the movie, but he doesn't have any relatives named John. "We had a dog named Jane, so that's about as far as that goes," he said, laughing.

The Kernels (32-18) scored four runs in the seventh inning to pull away from a 1-1 tie against Clinton (23-27). Doe made it 3-1 with his two-run double, then newcomer Edgar Corcino drove in Doe with a single in his first day with the Kernels. Nick Gordon followed with an RBI single to make it 5-1.

Gordon, Doe and Corcino had two hits. Luke Bard got the victory with two shutout innings in relief.

The Kernels and Clinton play again Sunday at 2:05 p.m.

CLINTON (1): Fields, cf, 3 1 1 0, Mariscal, 3b, 3 0 1 0, Ward, 2b, 3 0 0 0, Brito, 1b, 4 0 1 0,

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Mack, lf, 3 0 2 0, Morales, rf, 4 0 0 0, Taylor, c,
4 0 0 0, Wawoe, ss, 4 0 1 0, Zeutenhorst, dh, 4 0 2 0. Totals 32 1 8 0.

KERNELS (5): English, cf, 2 1 0 0, Gordon, ss, 4 0 2 1, Larson, lf, 4 0 1 0, Murphy, dh, 3 0 0 0,
White, 3b, 2 0 0 1, Fernandez, 1b, 2 1 0 0, Kelly,
2b, 4 1 1 0, Doe, c, 4 1 2 2, Corcino, rf, 3 1 2 1. Totals 28 5 8 5.

Clinton 100 000 000 - 1 8 2
Kernels 100 000 40x - 5 8 2

Schiraldi, Buchanan (7), Kiel (7) and Taylor. Tillery, Velez (5), Bard (7), Booser (9) and Doe. W
- Bard (2-0). L - Buchanan (0-1). 2B - Doe (6),
Larson (10). SB - White (8). E - Wawoe (6), Buchanan (1), White (8),
Gordon (6). T - 2:45. A - 2,312.