

Kernels fall at South Bend, 6-5

Written by Morgan Hawk
Saturday, 04 May 2013 22:34 -

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - The South Bend Silver Hawks topped the Kernels, 6-5, in 11 innings Saturday night before 3,688 fans in a Midwest League game at Coveleski Stadium.

The Kernels held a 5-2 lead going into the ninth inning, but the Silver Hawks tallied a trio of runs in the bottom of the ninth and Ryan Court's RBI single in the 11th gave South Bend the victory.

Late-inning walks doomed the Kernels. South Bend scored four runs in the ninth and 11th innings, and all four men reached with a base on balls. Six of the seven walks the Kernels issued in the game came in the last three innings.

Kevin Medrano led off the bottom of the 11th with a free pass and went to second base on a sacrifice bunt. A wild pitch by Tim Atherton sent Medrano to third base and forced the Kernels to bring the infield in with one out.

Court's RBI single sneaked past the drawn-in infield as shortstop Jorge Polanco dove to his left and could not come up with the ball.

Tim Atherton (1-1) took the loss in relief, going two innings and allowing one run on two hits. Josh Burris allowed three runs in one inning.

With the Kernels leading 5-2 going into the bottom of the ninth, three walks issued by Burris loaded the bases for the Silver Hawks. Atherton came on and threw a wild pitch that scored a run to cut the Kernels' lead to 5-3.

Brandon Drury's sacrifice fly made the score 5-4. With two outs in the inning and Fidel Pena at third base, Socrates Brito laid down an RBI bunt single to tie the game, 5-5.

Tyler Duffey was terrific again on the hill for the Kernels as he went seven innings and allowed

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two runs on seven hits while striking out five and walking one in a no-decision. He has pitched at least seven innings in four of his five starts and has thrown into the sixth inning in all five outings.

The Kernels and Silver Hawks traded a pair of runs in the first inning.

Polanco had an RBI triple down the right-field line for the Kernels to knock in Niko Goodrum. Dalton Hicks drove in Polanco with a single to left.

Court tied the game for South Bend with a two-run single in the bottom of the first.

The Kernels loaded the bases with nobody out in the fifth inning and scored twice to take a 4-2 lead. Adam Brett Walker came home when Romy Jimenez grounded into a double play. Tyler Grimes scored when J.D. Williams beat out an RBI bunt single.

Cedar Rapids extended its lead to 5-2 with an unearned run in the eighth inning. Goodrum scored when Silver Hawks right fielder Brito bobbled the ball on a single by Polanco.

South Bend's Blake Perry started and went five innings, allowing four runs on seven hits while striking out four and walking four. R.J. Hively (1-0) recorded the win as he pitched two innings, allowing no runs on one hit.

The Kernels stranded a season-high 15 runners on base and went 3-for-18 with runners in scoring position.

Cedar Rapids (19-8) and South Bend (19-7) will meet again Sunday at 1:05 p.m. with Jose Berrios (2-0, 2.31) on the mound for the Kernels.

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KERNELS (5): Buxton, cf, 5 0 2 0, Goodrum, 3b, 4 2 1 0, Polanco, ss, 5 1 2 1, Hicks, 1b, 6 0 1 1, Walker, rf, 5 1 1 0, Grimes, c, 4 1 2 0, Pimentel, 2b, 4 0 1 0, Jimenez, dh, 5 0 0 0, Williams, lf, 5 0 1 1, Duffey, p, 0 0 0 0, Jones, p, 0 0 0 0, Burris, p, 0 0 0 0, Atherton, p, 0 0 0 0. Totals 43 5 11 3.

SOUTH BEND (6): Medrano, ss, 4 3 3 0, Pena, 2b, 4 1 0 0, Drury, 3b, 4 1 1 1, Court, dh, 5 0 2 3, Brito, rf, 5 0 1 1, Glenn, lf, 3 0 1 0, Hall, 1b, 5 0 0 0, Rodriguez, c, 4 1 2 0, Almadova, cf, 5 0 0 0, Perry, p, 0 0 0 0, Garcia, p, 0 0 0 0, Locante, p, 0 0 0 0, Hively, p, 0 0 0 0. Totals 39 6 10 5.

Kernels 200 020 010 00 - 5 11 0

South Bend 200 000 003 01 - 6 10 1

(One out when winning run scored)

Duffey, Jones (8), Burris (8), Atherton (9) and Grimes. Perry, Garcia (6), Locante (9), Hively (10) and Rodriguez. W - Hively (1-0). L - Atherton (1-1). 2B - Buxton 2 (7), Walker (6), Drury (11), Medrano (6). 3B - Polanco (3), Medrano (2). SB - Goodrum (3), Buxton (12), Glenn (5). S - Pena. SF - Drury. E - Brito (4). T - 3:29. A - 3,688.