Kernels close door after 15-1 drubbing

Written by Mike Condon Saturday, 08 June 2013 22:55 -

Kane County closed the door early on a sliding Cedar Rapids Kernels team Saturday night. And following the 15-1 defeat, Kernels Manager Jake Mauer had the clubhouse door closed for a meeting.

Cedar Rapids was never in the opener of the three-game series before a fireworks night crowd of 5,251 fans at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

The loss, the third straight for Cedar Rapids (37-23) combined with Beloit's win over Burlington, cut the Kernels' lead to 1 1/2 games in the Midwest League's Western Division. The magic number for a playoff spot did fall to six as Quad Cities lost at Peoria.

Kane County pounded out 18 hits, including four home runs and four doubles off five Cedar Rapids pitchers.

Once the clubhouse doors opened, Mauer expressed his disappointment at the effort put forth Saturday night. That hadn't been a problem before, even during other down times in the first 60 games.

"We kinda backed off a little bit once we started getting hit," Mauer said. "We let them off the hook early. We had a chance to score and didn't.

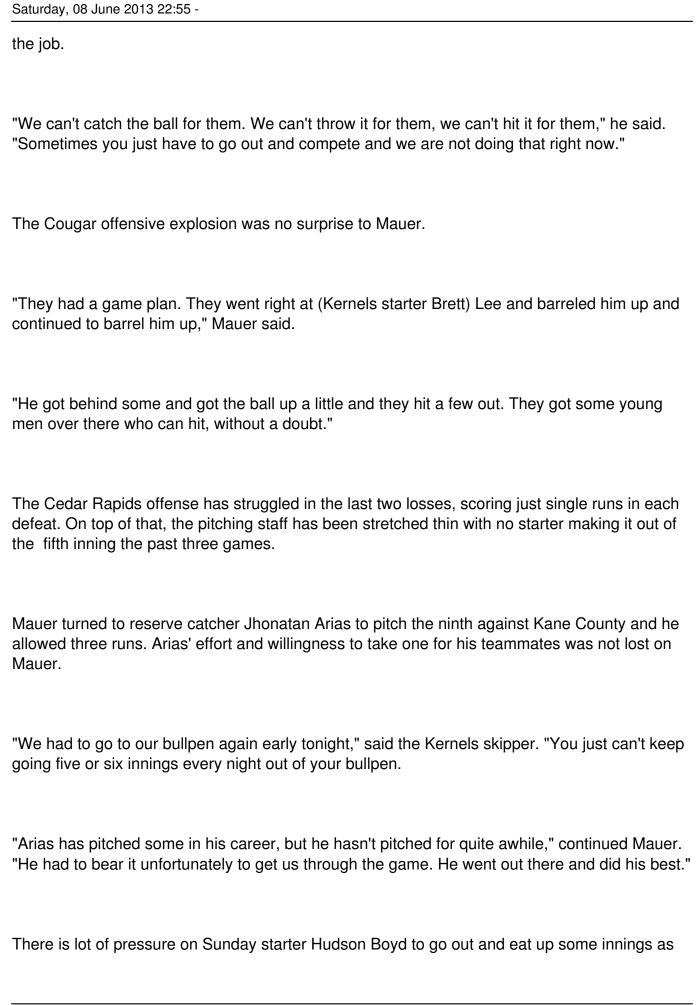
"The ball is rolling downhill, so we had to have a little meeting," he continued. "This isn't going the right way. If you are competing and things don't go your way, I don't have a problem.

"Sometimes, if you make a mistake, it needs to be an aggressive mistake and we're just not being aggressive right now."

Mauer didn't single out any individuals, but did say the players need to work through it and do

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the Kernels attempt to end their losing streak in the 2 p.m. contest.

"We need Boyd to step up tomorrow," Mauer said. "We need him to go out there and compete. Hopefully that will give us the spark we really need right now."

KANE COUNTY (15): Amaya, 2b, 5 2 1 1, Almora, cf, 5 2 4 4, Vogelbach, 1b, 6 1 1 1, Candelario, 3b, 4 2 3 1, Shoulders, dh, 5 1 1 2, Contreras, c, 6 1 2 2, Zapata, If, 4 2 2 2, Golden, rf, 4 2 2 0, Hernandez, ss, 3 2 2 2, Heesch, p, 0 0 0 0, Dickson, p, 0 0 0 0, Castillo, p, 0 0 0 0. Totals 42 15 18 15.

KERNELS (1): Buxton, cf, 5 0 3 1, Williams, If, 4 0 0 0, Polanco, ss, 4 0 0 0, Hicks, 1b, 4 0 0 0, Walker, rf, 4 0 0 0, Harrison, 3b, 4 0 0 0, Grimes, c, 4 1 3 0, Licon, 2b, 3 0 1 0, Pineda, dh, 3 0 1 0, Lee, p, 0 0 0 0, Merck, p, 0 0 0 0, Montanez, p, 0 0 0 0, Muren, p, 0 0 0 0, Arias, p, 0 0 0 0. Totals 35 1 8 1.

Kane County 016 140 003 - 15 18 1 Kernels 000 000 100 - 1 8 1

Heesch, Dickson (7), Castillo (9) and Contreras. Lee, Merck (5), Montanez (7), Muren (8), Arias (9) and Grimes. W - Heesch (3-4). L - Lee (4-4). 2B - Contreras (5), Zapata (8), Hernandez (8), Shoulders (11). HR - Candelario (3), Amaya (2), Vogelbach (10), Almora (1). SF - Almora. E - Candelario (13), Harrison (12). T - 2:43. A - 5,251.