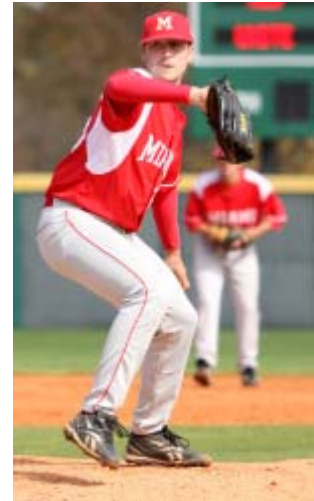


## Late Wild Pitch Enough for Red Team as Blue Team Falls, 8-7

Morris delivers RBI single as Blue Team ties the game in the seventh, but the Red Team's seventh two-out run proves to be the difference.

July 14, 2010

**WESTERN HILLS, Ohio**—It was just a matter of time. Nathan Smith (Furman) struggled in his inning of work and Tim Issler (Ball State), Jordan Keur (Michigan State), and Michael Morris (Tennessee Tech) went a combined 0-for-4 in the first six innings of the 2010 GLSCL All-Star Game, but the Steam All-Stars made their presence felt in the late innings, as Sam Dawes (Miami) threw a nine-pitch, one-two-three seventh inning and Morris drove in the first of the Blue Team's two game-tying runs in the bottom half of the inning. But a two-out wild pitch by Justin Ziegler (Licking County/Bradley) in the eighth inning brought home Wally Gerbus (Hamilton/Eastern Michigan) and erased any hopes of an All-Star victory for the Cincinnati bunch as the Red Team took the 2010 matchup by an 8-7 count. Ryan Rua (Hamilton/Lake Erie College) went 2-for-5, drove in three runs, and played third base, shortstop, and second base in the game to garner MVP honors.



RP Sam Dawes

After Dawes' inning of work, Matt Streng (Delaware/Ohio State) singled with one out for the Blue Team and Ben Hunterman (Hamilton/Mount St. Joseph) plunked Andrew Douglas (Xenia/Fresno Pacific) to put two on. Evan Shaw (Delaware/Ohio Dominican) went down swinging for the second out, but up came Morris, who knocked a ground ball up the middle to score Streng, making the score 7-6 in favor of the Red Team. What transpired next has been a common sight for Steam hitters this year: that is, a no-swing RBI, as Jacob German (Delaware/UAB) walked on four pitches to load the bases before Alex Johnson (Lake Erie/Cleveland State) picked up a game-tying, RBI hit-by-pitch. The Blue Team nearly took the lead when catcher Jason Bagoly's (Stark County/Kent State) return throw to Ziegler with Travis Redmon (Lexington/Morehead State) at the plate sailed over the pitcher's head, but no runner was able to advance.

The eighth began well for Ziegler, who took the loss, as he needed just five pitches to retire Luis Pollorena (Southern Ohio/Marion Military Institute) and Ryan Brenner (Grand Lake/Miami) on ground outs. But then Gerbus doubled, stole third, and came home on Ziegler's wild one, one of many not-so-pretty plays in this year's Mid-Summer Classic, a game that featured 11 walks, six hit batsmen, a passed ball, two wild pitches, six errors, and 22 runners left on base.

Hunterman claimed the victory despite needing 30 pitches in the Blue Team's two-run seventh; the 30 tosses were the most by any pitcher in the game, in which 18 pitchers each threw an inning each in a planned rotation. Smith pitched the second inning for the Blue squad, allowing a run on two hits and two walks and escaping more damage when left fielder Justin Riddell (Lexington/U. of Cincinnati) pegged Justin Kopale (Lima/Wright State) at home for the third out. Riddell also had a strong day at the plate, leading the Blue Team with three RBI, including a two-run double in the third.

It did not take terribly long to figure out that this All-Star Game would not be a pitcher's duel like last night's MLB one, as the score was already 5-4 Blue after the third inning. Each team plated three in the third inning alone; Rua's two-out double into the left-field corner drove in the last two of the Red Team's runs in that frame, while Trey Rallis (Xenia/Yale) followed Riddell's two-bagger with a two-out single to put the Blue Team up 5-4 in the latter half. A Chris Peters (Delaware/U. of Cincinnati) throwing error made two of the Blue Team's three runs in the inning unearned.

The Red squad tied the game at five in the fifth when Rua hit a two-out floater up the middle, off the end of the bat, to bring Corey Hough (Grand Lake/U. of Cincinnati) around. The bunch comprised of Grand Lake, Hamilton, Lima, Southern Ohio, and Stark County players then grabbed the lead in the sixth on a two-out, two-strike double off the bat of Seth Streich (Southern Ohio/Ohio). Gerbus and Josh Haley (Stark County/North Carolina) pulled off a double

steal prior to the drive—Haley stole three bases in the game—allowing both to virtually walk home on the hit. The Red Team went 9-for-17 (.529) with two outs in the game and scored seven of their eight runs with two away.

After the Red Team managed the 8-7 lead, J.T. Odom (Lima/Mercer) and Zach Sterling (Southern Ohio/Olney Central) retired the Blue Team in order in the eighth and ninth innings, with Sterling picking up the save. Morris batted with two outs in the ninth and the chance for some last-minute heroics, but the Tennessee Tech star fanned on a breaking ball to end the game. Had the Blue Team tied the game, a home-run derby would have taken place to determine the winner.

Morris finished 1-for-3, while Keur (who came off the bench to play right field) and Issler (who started at third base before giving way to Morris) each went 0-for-2 in the game. The nine pitches for Dawes were the fewest of any of the game's hurlers, and his three-up, three-down inning was the only recorded by a Blue pitcher all night.

The Steam (12-10) return to regular-season action on Friday, as the Lake Erie Monarchs (13-13-1) come to town for a 4:35 double-dip at Western Hills High School. Since dropping four of the first five meetings between the two clubs, the Steam have taken 11 of 15 matchups with the Monarchs. Cincinnati still has a winning series record versus every single GSLCL team.