

## Steam walk past Locos, 8-0

Cincinnati hitters draw 16 walks to back yet another stellar pitching effort.

June 17, 2010

**WESTERN HILLS, Ohio**—The last time Cincinnati and Lima faced off, the Locos put up some staggering numbers: 21 hits and 18 runs in a 14-run victory (21-7) to cap off a season sweep of the Steam last year. The Locos put up astounding numbers once again on Thursday night, but not ones of which to be proud: Lima pitchers walked 16 batters, hit three more, and threw 101 pitches out of the strike zone (192 total) in an 8-0 Steam victory. A four-spot in the third inning on four walks, two hit batsmen, two wild pitches, a passed ball, and zero hits was all the Steam needed to notch their fourth straight win and first over Lima (1-2) since July 27, 2008. Three of Cincinnati's last four wins over Lima have been of the shutout variety, all three by seven runs or more.

Overshadowed by the free passes was another dominant pitching effort by Steam (4-1) hurlers, who combined to allow just five Lima hits (although the Steam managed just four). Paul Uhl (Thomas More) picked up the win in his Steam debut, tossing 3.0 innings and allowing just three baserunners, all singles in the second inning. Uhl (1-0) worked out of trouble in the frame thanks in large part to a 1-6-3 twin killing started by the southpaw.

Zach Isler (Cincinnati), Andrew Brown (Marietta), and Markus Kuykendoll (Xavier) each tossed a pair of scoreless frames to finish off the whitewash (also the Steam debut for all three pitchers); Isler allowed just one hit and worked around two errors, while Brown walked four but stranded five Lima runners and Kuykendoll allowed just a hit batter in closing out the contest.

Since the football-like loss to Lima last season, Steam pitchers have yielded just 22 runs in 11 games, including just nine in the playoff run last season that led to the second consecutive Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League crown for the men of Cincinnati. The Steam's season ERA drops to 1.47 after the game, best in the league, and the squad now has a current streak of 14.0 consecutive scoreless innings. The large pitching staff has worked so far this year for Cincinnati, as the Steam have used 17 different pitchers in five games, none of whom has worked more than 4.0 innings or given up more than two runs.

Lima starter Trey Smith (Morehead State) managed to escape trouble in the first two innings—Smith (0-1) walked the bases loaded with two outs in the first before punching out Michael Basil (Indiana) to end the threat—but he was not so fortunate after loading the bases on free passes (a hit batter and two walks) with no outs in the third. Smith plunked Jake Proctor (Cincinnati) to force in a run and wild pitched home another to make the score 2-0 before being relieved by Tanner Howell (Wright State). Howell immediately allowed a run to cross on a wild pitch before walking Tim Issler (Ball State) to load the bags with one out. Nick Priessman (Eastern Illinois) then capped off the inning's scoring by beating out a potential double play for an RBI fielder's choice.

The Steam tacked on four more runs in the sixth inning, this time with the help of some base knocks and heads-up baserunning. Michael Morris (Tennessee Tech) led off with a line-drive single up the middle, and after a Cory Farris (Kentucky) walk, Jordan Keur (Michigan State) moved both runners up a base with a sacrifice bunt. Proctor was then hit for a second time, this time in the head, to load the bases. Ben Thomas (Xavier) came in to run for Proctor and Hunter Daniel came on to pitch, setting the stage for Basil. Basil smacked a hot shot back through the box that ricocheted off Daniel's glove and rolled towards left field. Farris motored around third to score behind Morris, and after shortstop Justin Kopale (Wright State) was not able to come up with the ball, Thomas alertly raced around to third, drawing a throw, which he beat. Third baseman Andrew Deeds then fired to first to try to nab Basil retreating to the bag, but his throw bounced away, allowing Thomas to score and Basil to reach second. One out later, Priessman would drive home Basil with a single for his second RBI of the night and what would be the final run of the evening.

Farris finished with four walks in the game and scored twice, while four other Steam players (Morris, Keur, Issler, and Ohio catcher J.R. Reynolds) drew a pair of bases on balls, with Morris also crossing the plate twice. Neither team had a player record an extra-base hit or a multi-hit game in the contest.

The Steam will look for some revenge for their first-ever loss to the Joes (1-0 in the season opener) when they travel to Hamilton for a 7:05 p.m. contest at Foundation Field on Friday night. Cincinnati can capture first place in the league outright with a victory. The Steam return home on Thursday, June 24 for a single game with the Xenia Scouts; first pitch is set for 7:05 p.m. from Western Hills High School.