

Rallying Steam sweep Stark County, 6-2 and 7-5

Cincinnati plated six runs in the final three innings of game one and four in the final two innings of game two

July 19, 2009

Game One (7 innings)

NORTH CANTON, Ohio—A two-run home run by Travis Shaw (Kent State) capped off a five-run fifth inning for the Steam, who went on to defeat the Stark County Terriers 6-2 in the first game of a doubleheader at Walsh University. Brian Sand (Cincinnati) notched his second complete-game victory of the season, making him just the third Steam pitcher to toss multiple complete games in a season and the first since 2006 (Kyle Pffirman of Charlotte and Matt Marksbury of Northern Kentucky).

Brennen Glass (Kent State) gave up just one hit and struck out three through the first four innings, taking a 2-0 lead into the top of the fifth. But the Steam mounted a rally, beginning when Trace Voshell (Ohio) singled to begin the inning and Cody Elliott (Ball State) followed with a walk (the first of the game for Glass). After a Ryan Strausborger (Indiana State) strikeout, Drew Schmidt (Xavier) yanked a single to right to bring home Voshell, with Elliott advancing to third. Schmidt was then caught off the base on a third-to-first move by Glass for the second out. After Jon Edgington (Miami) walked, Ben Thomas (Xavier) ripped an opposite-field double to plate Elliott and Edgington and give the Steam a 3-2 lead. Shaw then touched up his Golden Flashes teammate for a two-run jack, his third of the year (tying him with Strausborger for the team lead) and his second in a span of 11 at bats.

The Steam added an insurance run in the seventh inning to increase the lead to 6-2. After singles by Schmidt and Thomas, Shaw drove in his third run of the game with a single to the opposite field.

Sand (2-0) worked 7.0 innings for the win, giving up a pair of earned runs on five hits. He did not issue a walk and struck out five, bringing his career total to 46 (second in Steam history to Charlie Leesman's 53). Sand gave up two runs on four hits in the first inning but was untouchable after that, retiring the side in order in each of the last six innings and yielding just one hit (a single in the fourth that was promptly erased by a double play). Sand is now 6-0 in his Steam career and trails only Joey O'Gara (Indiana) on the career wins list (O'Gara notched a perfect 7-0 record for the Steam).

Glass suffered through the entire fifth inning in taking the loss, dropping him to 1-4 with an 8.84 ERA on the season (tying him for the league-lead in losses). He gave up five earned runs on six hits while walking two and punching out five.

Shaw, Thomas, and Schmidt each went 2-for-4 and scored a run in the game, with Shaw driving in three, Thomas two, and Schmidt one. Thomas extended his hitting streak to seven and is now batting .421 (8-for-19) with seven RBI over his past five games. Shaw continued his hot hitting as well, as he is 9-for-23 (.391) over his last six contests with six RBI and six runs scored.

Alex Schmid (Malone College) was the only Terrier with multiple hits, going 2-for-3 with an RBI and a stolen base. Greg Ferrell (Mount Union College) drove in the other Stark County run and also stole a base, his 11th of the year.

Strausborger saw his 16-game hitting streak come to an end after an 0-for-4 day. There are indications that his streak may be the longest in club history (more information on that when it becomes available).

Game Two (9 Innings)

Strausborger bounced back quickly and made some noise in game two, going 4-for-5 with two RBI, two runs scored, a double, and a stolen base to pace the Steam in a 7-5 game two victory. The Steam (17-10) were down 4-1 after one inning, but outscored the Terriers 6-1 the rest of the way and crossed the plate four times in the final two innings.

Cincinnati took advantage of two Stark County (9-18) errors to break a 5-5 tie with two runs in the ninth. Matt Rosinski (Miami) entered the game on the mound and immediately made an error to allow Elliott to reach to begin

the frame. Strausborger doubled down the left field line to plate Elliott and, after a Brad Gschwind (Miami) sacrifice bunt, scored on a single by Edgington to round out the night's scoring. Rosinski dropped to 1-1 on the season in 10 relief appearances. The Terriers committed an astounding six errors in the game, tying for the most by a GLSCL team in a game this season.

Mitchell Reilly (Miami) earned the win in his Steam debut, allowing a single and a walk in the eighth inning. Mike Peterson (DePauw) preceded Reilly with 2.0 scoreless innings (one hit, one walk, one strikeout), and Michael Schum (Wright State) worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his fifth save (lowering his ERA to 0.75).

Matt Weber (Findlay) lasted 5.0 innings in the start, giving up five runs (four earned) with three walks and two strikeouts. He gave up four runs in the first but yielded just one hit and one unearned run in his final four innings.

Kenny Ferrer (Elon) had a solid start for the Terriers, working 7.0 innings and giving up three runs (two earned) on five hits. Ferrer struck out four and walked two. It was the bullpen (2.0 IP, 4 R) and the defense (two errors and a passed ball in the final two innings) that faltered and allowed the Steam to rally and win the game.

Strausborger is now batting an even .500 (17-for-34) over his past eight contests with six multi-hit games, raising his batting average to .383 on the season (second in the league). He leads the team in multi-hit games with 13 and owns two of the Steam's three four-hit performances on the season (Edgington recorded the other on opening night). His stolen base gave him 30 in his Steam career, surpassing Zach Hurley (Ohio State) for the most in Steam history.

Edgington went 2-for-4 with two RBI in the game, Ryan Bellamy (Xavier) drove in two runs, and T.J. Jones (Cincinnati) went 2-for-4 and scored a run.

The Steam manufactured a run in the opening inning to take a 1-0 lead. Strausborger led off with a single, stole second, advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt by Gschwind, and scored on a sacrifice fly by Edgington.

Stark County scored all four of its runs in the first inning after two were out. Two-out singles by Ferrell and Schmid followed by a walk to Tanner Coggins (Wabash College) loaded the bases. Nick Hamilton (Xavier) brought in two runs with a single up the middle, and a triple by Joe Corfman (Toledo) brought home Coggins and Hamilton, putting the Terriers up 4-1.

Cincinnati answered quickly in the second inning with two runs to close the gap to one. After a one-out walk to J.R. Reynolds (Ohio) loaded the bases, Strausborger drove home a run on a single and Gschwind knocked in a run on a fielder's choice.

A two-out double by Schmid off of Weber brought home Bryan Conway (Richmond) in the fifth to put the Terriers up 5-3, but the run was unearned due to a Tim Issler (Ball State) error.

The Steam tied the game at five in the eighth off of reliever J.D. Osborne (Wofford College). With runners on the corners and two out, Jones advanced to second on a crucial passed ball, which allowed the Bearcat and Shaw to both score and tie the game when Bellamy singled up the middle (the second run was mistakenly recorded as an earned run).

Cincinnati is batting .324 as a team over the last seven games with 15 doubles, two triples, and four home runs. In the six games prior to that, the Steam hit just .208 with four extra-base hits.

Cincinnati returns to action on Wednesday, July 22 for a 7:05 game with the Xenia Scouts at Western Hills High School. The Steam look to make it a clean sweep of the Scouts this season, having already defeated Xenia twice this season at the AIA Sports Complex. Cincinnati has never lost to the Scouts at home (7-0).