

## Big Inning Enough as Steam Drop Grand Lake, 6-3

Six-run third makes a winner out of Isler, who puts together the longest start by a Steam pitcher in 2010.

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**CELINA, Ohio**—Celina must feel like home.

The Steam rode a six-run third inning to a 6-3 victory over the Grand Lake Mariners on Tuesday night at Westview Park, giving Cincinnati nine wins in 11 tries at Grand Lake in franchise history. Cincinnati—who has outscored the Mariners 71-28 in those games—has won seven of its past eight at Westview Park, a facility in which Grand Lake (15-19) has never scored more than five runs in a game against the Steam (16-15).

The half-dozen runs were more than enough for Zach Isler (Cincinnati), who tossed 7.0 innings of five-hit, three-run ball (two earned) to win his third consecutive start. The 7.0-inning outing for Isler—who becomes the first Steam pitcher to win three straight starts since at least the 2008 season—was the longest by a Cincinnati pitcher this summer and the longest since Brian Sand (Cincinnati) tossed a 7.0-inning complete game against Stark County on July 19 of last season.



Ryan Bellamy

Nick Priessman (Eastern Illinois) got things started for Cincinnati in the third with a leadoff single, but the runs would not come until two had been retired in the inning. Jon Richard (Xavier) plunked college teammate Ben Thomas to load the bases with two outs (Thomas' ninth HBP this summer, fourth in the league and a new Steam single-season record—Thomas also set a new one-year club record for putouts in the game) before Ryan Bellamy (Xavier) and Noah Zipko (Campbell) each stroked clutch two-run doubles down the left-field line to put the Steam up 4-0. A single by Michael Basil (Indiana) brought Zipko home, and after an error by Richard allowed Basil to move into scoring position, J.R. Reynolds (Ohio) knocked a single up the middle to plate the sixth Cincinnati run. Three of Reynolds' five hits on the season have been of the RBI variety.

The double was the sixth hit in 12 at bats for Bellamy—making his second straight start in left field—with runners in scoring position and two out this summer; eight of his 14 RBI this season have come with two away. Bellamy is now 10th in career RBI (34) for the Steam, who have now scored four or more runs in an inning 15 times this season.

The big inning was the last for Richard (0-3), who gave way to Jordan Liette (Tiffin) and then Ross Gerdeman (Bowling Green). The two combined to allow Cincinnati just one baserunner—a Michael Morris (Tennessee Tech) double in the ninth—the rest of the way, but Isler (3-0) was in control, allowing just a pair of two-out RBI hits in the fourth and an unearned run in the seventh. Mike Peterson (DePauw) worked the final two innings, striking out two without yielding a run, for his first collegiate save (spring or summer). The appearance was the 19th of Peterson's Steam career, tying him with current pitcher Ryan Martin (Michigan State) for fourth in Cincinnati history—only Matt Winterhalter (23 appearances), Steven Davis (21) and Brian Sand (20) have taken the mound more times with the Steam.

Ball State products Kirby Campbell and Kevin Franchetti each went 2-for-4 for Grand Lake, but as a team the Mariners were just 1-for-8 with runners in scoring position, unlike the Steam, who collected four consecutive two-out RBI hits in the victory.

Cincinnati takes its last off day of the 2010 regular season on Wednesday before returning home on Thursday to take on the Lima Locos (7:05 p.m. first pitch). The Locos have taken six of the past seven meetings, but the Steam still hold an 11-10 series advantage (including 7-3 at home).