

## **Steam fall to Lima, 21-7**

**Teams combined for 28 hits and 17 walks in the game**

**July 28, 2009**

LIMA, Ohio—The Steam found themselves on the wrong side of a football score Tuesday night in Lima, falling to the Locos by two touchdowns, 21-7. Lima scored in each of the first six innings (including seven runs in the second and eight in the fourth) en route to completing a season sweep of the Steam, who have allowed 10.75 runs per game to Lima this year. The Steam have swept an opponent in a season series eight times (Delaware in '06, Anderson in '07, Columbus, Grand Lake, and Lake Erie in '08, and Hamilton, Southern Ohio, and Stark County in '09) but had never been swept in a season series prior to Tuesday night. Cincinnati still leads the overall series, however, by a 10-8 count.

The Steam (21-12) held leads of 2-0 and 4-2 in the game and were down 9-7 when the Locos (25-6) proceeded to rattle off 12 unanswered runs. Lima has now won nine straight games.

Ben Thomas (Xavier) took the loss (1-2) in the start for the Steam, allowing seven runs (six earned) in 1.0+ innings. Thomas walked two and failed to retire any of the five batters he faced in the second inning before being lifted in favor of Josh Keehan (Kentucky Wesleyan), making his first appearance since June 25. Keehan allowed three runs on five hits in 2.0 innings, and his successor, Adam Clark (Lincoln Trail), did not fare any better in his return from injury, giving up six earned runs on five walks without retiring a batter. Clark left the bases loaded for Mike Peterson (DePauw), who promptly served up a grand slam home run to Chris Sosebee (Montevallo) to put the game out of reach at 17-7.

Ryan Martin (Michigan State) gave up one run in an inning of work, and Cody Elliott (Ball State) and Michael Schum (Wright State) continued their dominance by each tossing a scoreless frame. Elliott struck out the side in the seventh and still has not allowed a run this season, striking out 16 in just 7.2 innings. Schum lowered his season ERA to 0.61 and has not allowed an earned run in his last seven appearances; he also is just one appearance shy of tying Eric Braeckel's single-season Steam record of 15, set last season. Schum has a 1.73 ERA in 88.2 innings this year between the Raiders and the Steam.

Cincinnati pounded Lima starter Zach Laughlin (Georgia) for eight hits and seven runs in just 2.1 innings before Jordan Wolfe (Wright State) shut the Steam down, giving up only one hit in 5.0 innings to earn the victory. Wolfe is now 4-0 with a 3.21 ERA in eight appearances for the Locos after going 0-1 with a 16.88 ERA in six games for Wright State in the spring.

Drew Schmidt (Xavier) went 2-for-3 with two RBI in the defeat, and Travis Shaw (Kent State) had two hits, including his fifth home run of the season, tying the Steam single-season record (Tommy Nurre of Miami also had five last season). Shaw is now tied for the league lead in long balls as well. T.J. Jones (Cincinnati) scored twice for the second consecutive game, and Ryan Strausborger (Indiana State) drove in a run and scored another (the fourth consecutive game in which he has scored at least once and collected at least one RBI).

Sosebee went 4-for-5 with a double, five RBI, three runs scored, and the aforementioned grand slam to lead the Locos. Ryan Bridges (Purdue) collected three hits and also drove in five, and Anthony Toth (Michigan) and Tristan Moore (Wright State) each crossed the plate four times (with Toth notching four hits as well). Seven different Locos had at least one hit, one RBI, one walk, and one run scored in the game. Three different Locos tripled, the most triples for a GLSCL team in one game this season.

The game got off to a good start for the Steam, as singles by Strausborger and Jon Edgington (Miami) sandwiched around a Schmidt walk loaded the bases for the Steam with nobody out in the opening inning. One out later, Brad Gschwind (Miami) hit a fielder's choice to shortstop to bring in a run, with another run scoring to put the Steam up 2-0 when second baseman Shannon McCormick's (Northern Kentucky) throw got past the first baseman in an attempt to turn a double play.

Lima quickly tied the game in the bottom half of the inning. Toth tripled to open the frame and scored on a wild pitch to get the Locos on the board, and a walk to Moore, a double by Sosebee, and a sacrifice fly by Daniel Jones (Marietta College) led to the second Lima run.

Cincinnati jumped out in front by two runs again in the second inning, scoring twice to take a 4-2 lead. Singles by Jones and Ryan Bellamy (Xavier) put runners on first and second with two outs, and Schmidt followed with a single to plate Jones and give the Steam the lead back. Laughlin then walked Edgington and Thomas to bring in another Steam run.

The tide would turn quickly, however, as Lima scored seven runs in the bottom half of the inning to take a 9-4 lead. T.J. Daugherty (Kentucky) reached on a Gschwind error to begin the inning and Kent Myer (Alabama) followed with a two-run blast to tie the score. Toth then singled, advanced to second on a wild pitch, stole third, and came home on a McCormick base hit to give Lima its first lead of the game. Moore singled to prompt a pitching change, with Keehan replacing Thomas. Keehan allowed both inherited runners to score and gave up two runs of his own in the inning, making the score 9-4.

Cincinnati plated three more runs in the third to cut the deficit to two, but unfortunately the Steam would collect just two hits the remainder of the game. Shaw homered to lead off the third, and a walk to Jones, a single by Bobby Freking (Xavier), and a walk to Bellamy loaded the bases with no outs. Strausborger brought home Jones with a sacrifice fly and Schmidt singled home another run to close the gap to 9-7.

The Locos feasted on the Steam 'pen from then on out, scoring a run in the third, eight in the fourth, two in the fifth, and one in the sixth to put the game away. The 21 runs for the Locos were the most by a GLSCL team in a game this season and the most ever surrendered by the Steam in a single game.

Cincinnati returns to Western Hills High School one final time on Friday, July 31 for a 4:35 doubleheader versus the Xenia Scouts. The Steam have plated 31 runs in their past three games against Xenia (all wins).