

Baseball Update: A weekly look at the Cincinnati Steam

Cincinnati Steam – Member of the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League

National Recognition – The Cincinnati Steam have risen to Number 7 in the nation courtesy of PG Crosschecker.com, a division of the Perfect Game Corporation (http://www.pgcrosschecker.com/summer/2008/summer16/s16_71508.aspx) with a 24-7 record, remaining in first place by six games over the Stark County Terriers. The Steam entered the poll at 13th, rose to 10th and is now sitting at 7th.

Week in Review – After the All Star Game on Wednesday, the Steam returned to action Saturday against the Lake Erie Monarchs on the campus of Bowling Green State University. Cincinnati swept the Monarchs, 3-1 and 7-3. The Steam played host to second place Stark County on Sunday and after the Terriers defeated the Steam in game one for the Steam's first home loss of the season, Cincinnati exacted revenge by defeating Stark County 9-4 in game two.

Upcoming Games – Cincinnati played host last night to the Columbus All Americans on Beacon Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Night. The Steam will travel to Anderson, Indiana to face the Servants this evening. Then Cincinnati will have home contests on Thursday against the Licking County Settlers for their first trip to town and Friday against the Grand Lake Mariners who are managed by Xavier University Assistant Coach Zach Schmidt. The Steam will take a rare Saturday off before heading to Lima on Sunday evening and will travel to Delaware on Tuesday to face the Cows.

Players of the Week – This past weekend Billy O'Conner led the way for the Steam batting .500 (5-10) with a double, four rbi and two runs scored. Brandon Besl hit .333 (4-12) with a home run (his 3rd) double two rbi and three runs scored. Tommy Nurre hit .250 (3-12) with two home runs (2nd and 3rd) both in the 2nd inning of Saturday's games against the Monarchs. In the first game, Besl followed Nurre with his blast for the second back to back of the Steam season. On the mound, Joey O'Gara led the Steam with a three hit complete game victory on Saturday in game one raising his record to 4-0 on the season. Steven Davis matched O'Gara in game two with five innings of three hit relief to earn the victory giving Davis a 4-0 mark as well. Currently this season, the Steam leads the league in hitting, pitching and defense. Offensively, they are hitting .287; they are leading in pitching with a team earned run average of 2.73 and have the best fielding percentage at .977 having only committed 25 errors in 31 games played. Cincinnati has two of the top ten leading hitters with Zach Hurley second at .398 and Billy O'Conner fourth at .364. Hurley is tied for first with total hits at 39. Hurley and Jon Edgington are second and third respectively in runs scored at 23 and 21. The Steam have three of the top five in runs batted in with Brandon Besl tied for first with 23, O'Conner fourth with 21 and Ryan Strausborger fifth with 20. Four Steam members are tied with an additional five GLSCL players to total nine players with three home runs each. Zach Hurley, Ryan Strausborger, Tommy Nurre and Brandon Besl each have three home runs on the season. Joey O'Gara and Steven Davis are tied with several other GLSCL pitchers with a league leading four victories on the season. O'Gara is tenth in the league with a 2.03 era. Ryan Kruzka is third with 34 strikeouts.

GLSCL All Star Game – The Bash Brothers of Brandon Besl and Tommy Nurre stole the All Star Game when Brandon Besl won the Home Run Derby in pregame festivities and Tommy Nurre blasted a fourth inning home run off Anderson's Matt Carr. The Steam and the Red Team defeated the Blue Team 7-3. Four of the seven runs scored by the Red Team were from Cincinnati Steam members. Ryan Kruzka and Brian Sand each threw an inning for the Red Team with Kruzka getting the start. Zach Hurley (run scored), Tommy Nurre (1-2 Home Run rbi and run scored), Billy O'Conner and Brad Gschwind (1-3 run scored) each got the starting nod for the Red Team with Hurley and Gschwind playing the entire game. Brandon Besl replaced the starting designated hitter during the game getting a hit and scoring a run. Xenia Athletes in Action were well represented with Case Rigby and Andrew Page driving in 5 of the seven runs for the Red Team. Andrew Page was awarded with the Game's Most Valuable Player by driving in the tying and go ahead runs with a bases loaded and clearing double in the bottom of the 8th inning. Rigby hit a two run home run in the ninth to extend the lead for the Red Team.