

## STEAM LOSS TO END SEASON

NEWARK, OHIO – It was “win or go home” as the Steam needed to beat Licking County in order to advance to the next round of the GLSCL playoffs. The Steam went home with a 9-2 loss.

Due to the unavailability of its two top starting pitchers, the Steam turned to its closer Zach Isler (Cincinnati/Covington Catholic) to begin a game that would be pitched exclusively by the bullpen.

Isler got roughed up in the first inning, both by his own defense and by the Licking County offense. The right hander who was just named as the GLSCL top Right Handed Pro Prospect, surrendered four unearned runs. The defense behind him did commit back-to-back errors but Isler gave up three hits along with a walk, a hit batter and a wild pitch. When the inning finally ended the Steam had to dig out of a 4-0 deficit.

The Steam chipped away at the lead in the third inning by scoring a run on a base loaded sacrifice fly by first baseman Kevin Bower (Miami/Indy Cathedral). Unfortunately, the Settlers got that run back in the bottom of the inning with an RBI single by first baseman Kody Kritzman to made the score 5-1.

In the fourth inning, the Steam kept plugging away by putting together a two-out rally. Josh Ungerbuehler (Marietta/Roger Bacon) doubled and advanced to third base on a wild pitch. Patrick Paligraf (Xavier/Indy Cathedral) walked to prolong the inning, putting runners on the corners. Mark Elwell (Xavier/Newark Catholic), playing close to his home, continued his hot hitting with an RBI single to score Ungerbuehler and shrinking the Licking County lead to 5-2.

However, that was all the closer the Steam would as Licking County scored one in the fifth and three in the seventh to take a commanding lead and end the Steam’s season. The Steam loss in the first round of the playoff for the second consecutive season and will end the summer with a 22-21 record.

CIN	0 0 1	1 0 0	0 0 0	-	2	8	3
LICK	4 0 1	0 1 0	3 0 x	-	9	15	2

WP – Tyler Vaske (1-0)

LP – Zach Isler (0-1)

CIN (22-21) – LOB 10; Elwell: 2-4, RBI, R; Ungerbuehler 1-3, 2B, R; Bower: RBI.

LICK (27-12) – LOB 9; Wynn: 4-5, 2 2B, RBI, 3R; Willoughby: 2-3, 2B, 4 RBI; Krizman: 2-4, RBI, 2R; Schultz: 2-5; Hart: 2-2, R.