



Cavemen drop 2011 Season Opener, 4-1

Lack of clutch hitting dooms Hannibal

June 2nd, 2011

HANNIBAL, MO – Baseball returned to historic Clemens Field Thursday night and the Hannibal Cavemen suffered an opening day loss to the visiting DeKalb County Liners. The 2011 season got off to a rough start for the Cavemen, with only four hits from the Hannibal batters on the night. Mark Sappington (Rockhurst) started on the mound for Hannibal and delivered a solid start, but the Cavemen batters were unable to capitalize on several opportunities. Sappington finished the night with seven strikeouts in six innings pitched, but suffered the loss.

DeKalb began the scoring on the night with a run in the top half of the third inning to take a 1-0 lead. After adding another run in the fourth, DeKalb built a two run lead, but Hannibal cut the deficit in half with an RBI from Jeff Zimmerman (Northern Illinois University) in the bottom of the fourth. Bryce Bellin delivered a gem for the Liners, after allowing only one earned run in six innings of work. Jarad Miller pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the save and secure a 4-1 victory for DeKalb.

Kyle Haen (University of Iowa), Matt Burton (Mississippi Valley State), and Michael Tucker (Anderson University) also added a hit a-piece for the Cavemen on the night. Coklin Nguyen (Louisiana State University) pitched three effective innings out of the bullpen for Hannibal, allowing one un-earned run. Nguyen also recorded an impressive five strikeouts and only allowed two hits.

DID YOU KNOW?

This is the third season of existence for the Hannibal Cavemen and Matt Burton is the only player to have played for the team each year.

UP NEXT:

The Cavemen look to quickly get back to .500 on the young season as they travel to Springfield Friday night (June 3rd) to take on the Sliders. Hannibal will also play at Springfield Saturday, June 4th.

The Terre Haute Rex visit Clemens Field this Sunday (June 5th) with the first pitch set for 5:05 PM (CT). This will also mark the first opportunity for kids to run the bases following the conclusion of the game!

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