



Cavemen Earn Walk-Off Win, 6-5

C.K. Irby scores winning run on wild pitch

June 9th, 2011

HANNIBAL, MO – Mother Nature tried its hardest to prevent the Hannibal Cavemen and Springfield Sliders from playing Thursday night. About twenty minutes prior to the originally scheduled game time, heavy rain and hail hit historic Clemens Field. Following about an hour delay, the two teams squared off in an exciting weekday matchup.

The Hannibal Cavemen were fresh off a road win on Wednesday night and improved to 3-0 this season away from Clemens field. However, the Cavemen had only managed a 1-2 mark at home so far this summer. Hannibal (5-2) jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead with one run in the first and four more in the third inning. Matt Burton (Mississippi Valley State) recorded an RBI single in the bottom half of the first for his sixth RBI on the season.

In the bottom of the third, Jeff Zimmerman (Northern Illinois University) and Trey Lang (Northern Illinois) added RBI singles of their own. Jake Mangler (Iowa) delivered the big blow of the inning with a base hit that brought in two Cavemen.

Jake Hermsen (Northern Illinois) cruised along the majority of the night on the mound for Hannibal. Hermsen lasted seven innings while only allowing two earned runs. The Springfield Sliders (2-4) entered the eighth inning down three runs and appeared to be running out of time. Coklin Nguyen (LSU) came on in relief for Hannibal and allowed the Sliders to get back into the game. Matt Tallor and Brock Harding each recorded RBI singles to knock Nguyen out of the game.

A.J. Martin (Central Methodist) appeared to have gotten the Cavemen out of the jam after forcing Springfield's Mike Fitzgerald to groundout, but Hannibal's Jeff Zimmerman dropped the ball at first base to allow the game-tying run score for the Sliders.

Hannibal had a chance to win the ballgame in the ninth and they would end up scoring in odd fashion. C.K. Irby (Samford University) drew a walk with one out and Matt Burton also followed with a walk of his own to have two runners on for the Cavemen. Michael Tucker (Anderson University) walked to the plate and had a chance to be the hero on the night. Before he had a chance to win it himself, Springfield's reliever Michael Sudbury allowed two wild pitches to send Hannibal home a winner. C.K. Irby crossed the plate after Sudbury's second wild pitch and was instantly mobbed by his teammates.

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