

Hannibal Edges Butler in Extra Inning Affair

Burton scores on wild pitch in the 11th

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HANNIBAL, MO – The Butler Blue Sox visited historic Clemens Field on Monday evening with thoughts of revenge on their mind. The last time the two teams squared off, Hannibal came away with an impressive 13-0 route on the road over the Blue Sox at Pullman Park. Butler would come up with a clutch late inning hit to tie the game but Hannibal would have the last word after they came away with the 4-3 victory in the bottom half of the 11th inning.

The Cavemen's second basemen, Curtis Ford (Mississippi Valley State), would provide the first run of the evening in the second inning. With the bases loaded, Ford would knock in a run with an RBI groundout to second to put Hannibal up by a score of 1-0.

Butler (15-23) would respond in the top half of the fifth inning after Adam Jury recorded an RBI single to tie the game at one a piece. A second runner was thrown out at the plate by a strong throw from Cavemen right fielder LJ Watson (William Woods) and the score remained tied.

Hannibal (19-20) tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the sixth with an RBI triple by Gardner Richey (Samford) and an RBI groundout by center fielder Matt Burton (Redlands Community College). Jake Hermsen (Northern Illinois University) delivered a solid outing on the mound, as he only allowed one earned run in seven innings of work. Hermsen also recorded seven strikeouts on the night, which was good enough for a new season-high in that category.

The score remained 3-1 in Hannibal's favor until the eighth inning when Butler would even the score. After Kyle Grana encountered some problems out of the bullpen, James Hudelson was asked to limit the damage for the Cavemen. However, Butler's John Sulzicki would knock a single to shallow left field that brought in two Blue Sox runners and the game was now tied at three.

The game would move into extra innings and the score remained tied up until the eleventh inning. Hannibal would load the bases and LJ Watson would have the chance to be the hero on the night. It would turn out that Matt Burton would be the one who would get mobbed at the plate after he scored the game-winning run after Butler's Max Vogel threw a wild pitch on his first pitch to Watson. The Cavemen came away with the 4-3 victory and moved back to the .500 mark in the second half (5-5).

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