

Cavemen Ends 2010 Season on a High Note

Hannibal caps summer with two comeback victories

August 7th, 2010



HANNIBAL, MO - Saturday night at historic Clemens Field in Hannibal, MO marked the end of the 2010 season for the Hannibal Cavemen. Before the originally scheduled season finale, the Cavemen and Quincy Gems first had to complete a suspended game from the past week. Play resumed in the bottom of the eighth inning with Hannibal at-bat and no one on base and no one out.

With the score tied at two heading into the ninth, Quincy's Kurtis Lee knocked in teammate John Lorenz with an RBI single to put the Gems ahead 3-2. Hannibal would come to the plate in the bottom half of the inning in search of at least one run. Gardner Richey (Samford) led off for the Cavemen and reached first with a walk. Matt Burton (Redlands Community College) quickly added a single to right to put Hannibal in business. After a double steal from Richey and Burton, Jake Hermsen had a chance to be the hero. Hermsen (Northern Illinois) would deliver after hitting a single to center field which drove in the tying and game-winning run. After their 4-3 victory, Hannibal would now play Quincy in their regularly scheduled game at 6:35 PM.

LJ Watson (William Woods), who was announced earlier in the evening as the co-offensive player of the year for the Cavemen, would get his team on the board first in the bottom of the third with a single that drove in two. After scoring a run in the top of the sixth, Quincy would re-gain the lead in the top of the seventh after Travis Becherer recorded a single to drive in two Gems' runners. Jake Hermsen quickly responded for the Cavemen in the bottom half of the seventh with a sacrifice fly that brought Shelby Anderson (Lindenwood) across the plate.

The score was tied at three each heading to the bottom of the eighth when Gardner Richey gave the hometown crowd one last hurrah of the 2010 season. In the first pitch of his at-bat, Richey deposited the ball over the wall in right-center with a towering blast. The home run was Richey's ninth of the season and gave Hannibal a 5-3 lead heading into the ninth.

Cavemen closer, James Hudelson (Missouri) was called upon to close the door and would successfully get the job done to end the season on a high note for his team. Hannibal wrapped up the season with a 27-28 record overall, which also included finishing 13-13 in the second half. Along with LJ Watson being named the co-offensive player of the year Saturday night, Gardner Richey also shared the offensive award. Justin McGhee was named the 2010 pitcher of the year for the Cavemen and Curtis Ford won his second consecutive defensive player of the year.

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