

Beatrice Daily Sun

Bruins slay Golden Giants

By Jane White/Daily Sun sports editor
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Strong pitching, solid fielding and a few clutch hits allowed the Beatrice Bruins baseball team to down the visiting Topeka, Kan., Golden Giants Thursday night at Christenson Field.

The Bruins posted a 4-2 win over the Golden Giants.

"It's an important win," Bruins manager Bob Steinkamp said. "This team (Topeka) was 5-1 coming in here. They have some pretty good arms. They're much better than they used to be."

So far, Steinkamp said pitching has been "the strong point" for the Bruins.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln pitcher Michael Mariot earned the win, going seven innings as the Bruins' starter.

"We got a great job from Mariot," Steinkamp said.

Mariot faced the minimum number of batters through four innings. He allowed one hit in the fourth inning, but the baserunner was erased on a 4-6-3 double play to end the inning.

The starting pitcher gave up just one run in seven innings as he allowed the Giants a score in the fifth inning on a double, a sacrifice and a single.

Stephen Kohlscheen, who was drafted Wednesday by the Philadelphia Phillies, threw the final two innings for the Bruins.

Kohlscheen gave up a single run in the eighth inning on a solo home run.

"Kohlscheen came in and, for the most part, threw strikes," Steinkamp said. "He was trying to get ahead of that guy that hit the home run and just grooved a fastball and the guy hit it good."

Steinkamp said the Bruins' defense also played well behind their pitchers.

"I'll probably jinx us, but we haven't made an error yet," Steinkamp said. "We have a very, very solid defense."

Pitching and defense will win teams a lot of games, Steinkamp said.

Thursday night, the Bruins were also able to add in some key hitting.

"We had a couple of timely hits and a well executed squeeze bunt," Steinkamp said. "It (hitting) is starting to come around."

Steinkamp said the collegiate players are still adjusting to using wooden bats instead of the aluminum the NCAA uses.

The Bruins scored the game's first run in the bottom of the fourth inning.

With one out, Vicente Cafaro was hit by a pitch.

Tyson Parks doubled, scoring Cafaro.

Topeka tied the game in the fifth inning at 1.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, the Bruins regained the lead without the benefit of a hit.

Mark Ramos walked, advanced to second as Cafaro was hit by a pitch and took third as a walk to Parks loaded the bases.

A passed ball allowed Ramos to score, making it a 2-1 game.

In the seventh inning, the Bruins took a 4-1 lead.

Travis Parker walked to lead off the inning, advanced to second on a sacrifice by Keegan Morrow and

ended up scoring on a wild pitch.

Randall Thrope singled for the Bruins, stole second and advanced to third on a passed ball.

A sacrifice squeeze bunt by Scott LeJeune allowed Thorpe to score.

In the top of the eighth, Topeka scored their second run of the game on a solo home run.

Next action for the Bruins, 1-0 in the MINK League and 2-1 overall, will be tonight (Friday) as they travel to St. Joseph, Mo., to take on the Mustangs.

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