

Beatrice Daily Sun

Better start, better ending

By Jane White/Daily Sun sports editor
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Beatrice's Bruins baseball team found out what a difference a good start can make Thursday night as they defeated the visiting Nevada, Mo., Griffons.

The Bruins won the contest, 8-4.

A slow start Wednesday night, as they fell behind 8-0 early, cost the Bruins their opening game against the Griffons in a two-game series.

Thursday night, though, it was the Bruins who were able to get off to a solid beginning.

"This was a much better performance," Bruins manager Bob Steinkamp said. "We did to them tonight what they did to us last night. We took them out of the game early."

Steinkamp said the Bruins never put the game "clear out of sight," but were able to hold a comfortable lead most of the way.

"We stayed ahead enough that there wasn't a lot of pressure for us," Steinkamp said.

One of the keys to the Bruins' offensive surge in the game was outfielder Scott LeJeune.

During a six-run rally in the bottom of the second inning, LeJeune cleared the bases with a grand slam home run. He also had two doubles in the game.

"He (LeJeune) really came out of it tonight," Steinkamp said.

Steinkamp said he brought a hitting instructor, Josh Patton, who is a former professional player that played for the Lincoln Saltdogs, to work with the Bruins before the game.

Patton will be helping the Bruins the rest of the year, Steinkamp said.

"He (Patton) worked with all our guys in the batting cage quite a while before the game," Steinkamp said. "LeJeune really looked good tonight and said that helped him."

Nevada scored the game's initial run in the top of the first inning on a walk, a single and two straight groundouts.

But the Bruins came back in the bottom of the second scoring six times and taking a 6-1 lead.

Adam Smith led off for Beatrice with a single and advanced to third on a single by Trevor Adams.

A two-out single by Travis Parker, after Adams was caught stealing, scored Smith.

Parker stole second and scored on a single by Keegan Morrow, who took second on a throw to the plate.

After Randall Thorpe was hit by a pitch, Mark Ramos reached on an infield single, loading the bases.

LeJeune then came through with the biggest hit of the game for the Bruins, stroking a grand slam home run over the left-field fence. Morrow, Thorpe and Ramos, as well as LeJeune, all scored on the roundtripper.

The Griffons plated two runs in the second inning, including one on a solo home run.

But the Bruins answered in the bottom of the inning, scoring once to take a 7-3 lead. Adams walked and scored on a double by Anthony Bemboom.

In the fourth inning, Thorpe put the Bruins up 8-3, leading off the inning with a solo home run.

The Griffons finished off the game's scoring in the top of the eighth, scoring one run on the strength of three singles.

LeJeune led the Bruins' offense with a home run and two doubles, while Tyson Parks and Adams had two singles each.

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