

Beatrice Daily Sun

Bruins stop Outlaws

By Jane White/Daily Sun sports editor

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Beatrice's Bruins robbed the Joplin, Mo., Outlaws of one potential win Friday night at Christenson Field and then kept the Outlaws handcuffed in the nightcap, sweeping at MINK League doubleheader.

The Bruins won the first game, 6-3, after trailing 3-0 through 5 1/2 innings.

"It was a great comeback and we needed that desperately," Bruins manager Bob Steinkamp said. "It was a huge, huge momentum changer and it carried into the second game."

In the nightcap, the Bruins earned a 6-0 victory with some clutch hitting early in the game.

"We're starting to come around," Steinkamp said. "It's been a struggle, getting everybody in a groove, but it's coming."

Joplin took the lead in the opener scoring single runs in the first, second and third innings.

The Bruins finally got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Adam Smith hit a one-out single to get things started for Beatrice.

A triple by Randall Thorpe to the gap in right-center scored Smith, making it a 3-1 game.

Mark Ramos beat out an infield single, scoring Thorpe and cutting the Joplin lead to one run, 3-2.

In the seventh inning, the Bruins went back to work.

Anthony Bemboom led off with an infield single, laying down a successful bunt as the Bruins' lead-off hitter. Bemboom advanced to second on a groundout by Trevor Adams. Adam Bailey singled, moving Bemboom to third, and then Smith singled, scoring Bemboom and tying the game at 3.

With Bailey and Smith at second and first respectively, Thorpe hit a walk-off three-run home run, giving the Bruins the 6-3 win.

Thorpe led the Bruins' offense with a home run and triple, while Bailey and Smith had two singles each.

Adding a single apiece for Beatrice were Ramos, Tyler Farst and Bemboom.

Closer Shane Minks earned the win for the Bruins.

"Minks is a rubber-armed guy who is extremely, extremely valuable to this team," Steinkamp said. "He's done a job for us for three years here."

Michael Strong started the game for Beatrice with Travis Parker also seeing action in middle relief.

The Bruins carried the momentum from the final innings of the first win over to the nightcap and took

command early.

"We got off to a lead in the second game and it was never in question because (Brian) Feekin threw extremely well," Steinkamp said. "He had good stuff tonight."

Steinkamp said the second Beatrice win was highlighted by a strong pitching performance from their starter.

"He (Feekin) had a plus fastball and threw his breaking pitch for strikes," Steinkamp said. "He had a great night."

Feekin earned the win, throwing 6 1/3 innings. He shut out the Outlaws, giving up two hits and four walks and hitting one batter, while striking two.

Feekin retired 11 of the 23 batters he faced on ground balls.

Minks threw the final 2/3 inning, walking one batter, but then throwing a ground ball, which resulted in a double play.

The double play to back up Minks was one of three for the Bruins' defense in the game.

Beatrice scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning, taking a 2-0 lead. Thorpe doubled, advanced to third on a wild pitch and scored on a single by Ramos. Ramos stole second and scored on a single by Trevor Adams.

In the third inning, the Bruins went up 5-0. Ramos and Farst were issued back-to-back walks. Bailey reached on a fielder's choice which erased Farst at second, but moved Ramos to third.

Adams was hit by a pitch to load the bases.

With two outs and two strikes on Tyson Parks, the first baseman came through with a big hit for the Bruins, hitting a double which scored Ramos, Bailey and Adams and put the Bruins up 5-0.

"That was a huge, huge hit," Steinkamp said. "We were up two runs and he (Parks) hits us an opposite field, three-RBI double. That was probably the biggest hit of the game."

Beatrice added a single run in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Keegan Morrow reached on an infield single, stole second and took third as Thorpe singled.

Thorpe stole second and the throw from the catcher toward the bag allowed Morrow to score from third.

The Bruins finished with eight hits in the nightcap.

Thorpe led the way with a double and single, while Adams and Morrow had two singles each, Parks had a double and Ramos added a single.

Next action for the Bruins will be today (Saturday) as they travel to Kansas City, Mo., to face Mac-N-Seitz in a MINK League doubleheader.

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