

Beatrice Daily Sun

Bruins rally in ninth

By Jane White/Daily Sun sports editor
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A bottom-of-the-ninth rally propelled the Beatrice Bruins baseball team to a 3-2 win over the visiting St. Joseph, Mo., Mustangs Sunday at Christenson Field.

The Bruins led 2-1 heading into the ninth, but a two-out solo home run by the Mustangs tied the score in the top of the inning.

Beatrice had the top of its order up in the bottom of the ninth and the first through fourth holes in the lineup were able to get the job done.

Leadoff batter Randall Thorpe started off the Bruins at-bat with a double.

The Mustangs chose to intentionally walk Beatrice's next batter, Mark Ramos.

St. Joe retired the third Bruins hitter on a pop fly to second base.

With one out and the game-winning run still at second base, Tyson Parks hit a sharp grounder down the first-base line.

The ball bounced off the Mustangs' first baseman and into short right field, allowing Thrope to score and giving the Bruins the 3-2 win.

"We won the ball game on an error on an easy play," Bruins manager Bob Steinkamp said. "That's what happens in these type of games. A wild pitch or an error makes all the difference in the world."

University of Nebraska pitcher Michael Mariot earned the win for the Bruins, throwing the complete nine-inning win.

Mariot allowed two runs on six hits and two walks. He faced 34 batters, striking out 11.

"It was a great pitching performance," Steinkamp said. "He had command of his breaking stuff and had an outstanding fastball up to 92 mph on velocity."

With just two walks, Steinkamp said Mariot "overpowered" St. Joseph's line-up.

Steinkamp said the solo home run to tie the game in the top of the ninth was one of only a couple hard-hit balls by the Mustangs.

"(Mariot) did a great job," Steinkamp said.

It was a scoreless game through 6 1/2 innings.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Bruins plated the first two runs.

Scott LeJeune led off with an infield single.

Back-to-back singles by Anthony Bemboom and Ryan Morgan then loaded the bases for Beatrice.

A one-out walk to Ramos forced home LeJeune with the game's initial run.

Tyler Farst then came through with a sacrifice fly, scoring Bemboom and putting the Bruins up 2-0.

St. Joseph came back to tie the game with single runs in the eighth and ninth innings, setting up the Bruins' game-winning rally in the bottom of the ninth.

The Bruins finished the game with three runs on seven hits.

Bemboom led the offense with a pair of singles, while Thorpe and Farst had a double each and LeJeune, Jordan Etier and Ryan Morgan each singled.

With the win, the Bruins go to 15-11 in the MINK League and 16-12 overall.

Steinkamp said the win moves the Bruins in to second place in the league's North Division behind the Chillicothe, Mo., Mudcats.

"It's unlikely we can catch Chillicothe," Steinkamp said. "There's only five or six games to go, so everything would really have to fall into place."

Next action for the Bruins will be Tuesday against the Clarinda, Iowa, A's.

Action will begin with completion of last Thursday's suspended game between the Bruins and A's, which was tied at 8 in the bottom of the 12th inning.

First pitch in the suspended game is slated for 6 p.m.

The regularly-scheduled game between the two teams will begin at 7 p.m. or after the conclusion of the suspended game.

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