

FREE PASSES AND HIT BASEMEN DOOM CAVALIERS IN 16-3 LAUSANNE ROUT



Above: Brady Fronabarger had a walk, a sac fly, a run-scoring single, and a double, and threw three scoreless innings for Crockett. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

You are not going to win too many baseball games when the opposing team has 17 batters reach base without even having to swing the bat.

That was the scenario Wednesday when Crockett County and Lausanne Collegiate School took the field Wednesday night in a rapidly scheduled game with the intended purpose of shaking off the soggy cobwebs imposed by a week of flood-producing weather.

It's been eight days since the Cavaliers last played, and it seems to have affected the pitchers more than any other position.

Crockett hurlers handed Lausanne batters 11 bases on balls and hit six more of them with pitches. The accumulated wildness wiped out an early 2-0 Cavalier lead and turned it into a 16-3 walloping by the visitors from Memphis.

Lausanne boasts an international study body that represents 68 countries, and if all of those nations had been represented on the Lynx baseball team Wednesday, fully one-quarter of them would have received a free pass to first base at some point.

Even Crockett's dependable starter Brady Fronabarger had wildness issues, walking four but somehow keeping Lausanne off the scoreboard during his three innings, while also driving in both Cav runs to give the hosts their brief 2-0 advantage.

The roof began to cave in during the top of the fourth frame. Crockett reliever Bryson Vance retired the first two batters he faced, but suddenly lost the strike zone. A full-count walk, a single, and another full-count walk loaded the bases, and the Lynx put their first run on the board when the next man received a four-pitch base on balls.

The next batter walked as well – on another full-count pitch – tying the game at 2-2. The next was hit by a pitch with a 1-and-2 count, putting Lausanne ahead with only one batter in the rally putting a ball in play.

The Lynx decided to make use of their bats in the top of the fifth against new reliever Tyler Rathbun. With two outs and a man at first, Noel LeBlanc singled and Christian Doty hammered a three-run homer to boost the Lausanne margin to 6-2.

Rathbun also began the top of the sixth, sandwiching a double by Christian Mitchell with two hit batsmen to load the bases.

Cade Freeman entered as Crockett's fourth pitcher of the evening and almost completely wriggled out of the jam, inducing two outs before a passed ball allowed a tally. The Lynx led 7-2 entering the bottom of the sixth, in which the Cavs managed a run themselves on a Fronabarger double, a George Randall walk, and a Vance base hit, capped off when Preston Lambert was hit by a bases-loaded pitch.

But in the top of the seventh, Lausanne totally put the game away, again largely due to Crockett's wildness. The Lynx tacked on nine runs, combining five more hits with three more walks and two hit batsmen.

Doty paced the visitors' offensive attack, walking four times and scoring four runs in addition to belting his three-run homer. Colin Wilbon and Emre Roan knocked in three runs apiece for the winners.

Fronabarger, Carter Winders, and Callan Willis collected two hits each for Crockett, which fell to 9-6 on the season.