

Free baseball yet again

Cowlitz plays WCL leading ninth extra innings game this season

LONGVIEW, Wash. - Cowlitz played its West Coast League leading ninth extra innings game of the season Sunday but came up short in the rubber match to Yakima Valley 7-5.

That's now five out of six second half series as well the Black Bears have played one game past regulation.

The Pippins drew a pair of two out walks in the top of the 11th inning and made Cowlitz pay with a triple to the right side of the barn in center field.

The Black Bears got an infield single in the bottom half to bring the tying run to the plate but a fielder's choice and a ground out to second base ended the game.

JT Penick (*SO, Dallas Baptist*) took the loss dropping his record to 1-1. It was a hard luck loss for Penick having retired the first eight batters he saw before the walks.

The win for the Pippins wasted a great comeback by the Black Bears.

Yakima Valley led 5-1 heading into the eighth. But Cowlitz sent nine batters up and scored four runs on four hits to tie the game. Austin Bell (*R-JR, Dallas Baptist*) started the rally with an RBI single. Andres Sosa (*JR, Dallas Baptist*) then hit an RBI double to get to within two runs. The game was tied on a bases loaded wild pitch that brought home both Blake Burton (*JR, University of Washington*) and Sosa.

Extra innings hasn't exactly been kind to Cowlitz for the most part this season. The Black Bears now have a record of just 3-6 in such games.

Yakima Valley opened the scoring in the first with a two out RBI single to left center.

The Black Bears tied the game in the fourth when Burton hit a solo shot into the left field corner. It was Burton's fourth home run of the season.

The Pippins took the lead back in the fifth taking advantage of a throwing error by the short stop. An RBI sacrifice fly to right field made it 2-1.

Yakima Valley doubled its lead the next inning with a two out RBI double. In the seventh an RBI triple to right center and an RBI single gave the Pippins their biggest lead at 5-1.

Cowlitz has now lost five series in a row after sweeping Bend to begin the second half. The Black Bears have also dropped their last five rubber matches.

Burton finished game three 4-for-6 and was a triple shy of the cycle.

After the final off day of the season tomorrow Cowlitz heads to Bellingham Tuesday. First pitch for all three games is scheduled for 6:35 p.m.