

What a way to end it

Cowlitz ends season shutting out Walla Walla

LONGVIEW, Wash. - Cowlitz finished the ninth season in franchise history Wednesday by shutting out Walla Walla 3-0.

Six Black Bears pitchers combined for the sixth shutout of the season. The Sweets only managed two hits which tied a season low for the Cowlitz pitching staff.

The first reliever Joey Morris (*R-SO, University of Portland*) got the win coming in for starter Ryan Kaser (*SO, Lower Columbia College*) in the fourth inning. Morris became the only Black Bears pitcher to win four games this season and lasted two innings not giving up a hit with one strikeout. Marty Maves (*SR, Benedictine*) earned his second save of the season striking out the side in order in the ninth after giving up a lead-off double.

Andrew Walling (*IN-FR, Oregon State*) brought home the only run Cowlitz needed in the third. Dutton Elske (*JR, University of Portland*) kept the inning going with a two-out single. Walling then drove a pitch to deep left center that rolled all the way to the wall scoring Elske from first base.

The Black Bears scored two more runs in the fourth. Tanner Parker (*JR, Middle Tennessee State*) and Kyle Sandstrom (*JR, Sacramento State*) led off drawing walks. After a balk put both runners in scoring position the Sweets pulled the infield in. But Jonathan Hodo (*JR, Benedictine*) looped a ball over the short stops head into left center to make it 2-0. Then Hodo stole second and the throwing error by the catcher allowed Sandstrom to score.

The victory is one of a few bright spots on a disappointing season. Coming off a 27-27 record in 2018 and missing the playoffs due to a tie-breaker Cowlitz finishes 2019 just 20-34. The Black Bears established a new record in losses and won the second fewest games in franchise history.

Ryan Kim (*JR, Boise State*) won the batting title with a .303 average.

A few franchise records were either tied or broken this season. Kim stole 25 bases for a new single season record while Austin Bell (*R-JR, Dallas Baptist*) broke the RBI record with 33. Maves and Christian Peters (*JR, University of Portland*) each broke the appearances record with 23 outings. Maves also qualifies for the third lowest ERA in a single season with at least 25 innings pitched with just a 1.56 mark. Lastly the team tied last year's squad with the most home runs at 31.