

ROCKETS WIN ALIS TOURNAMENT BEHIND TWIN NO-HITTERS

On Saturday, August 20, the Altamont Lutheran Rockets played host to the Iuka Pirates, Central City Citians and Steelville St. Mark's Panthers in the ALIS Invitational Junior High Baseball Tournament. By day's end, the Rockets had convincingly claimed first place in their own tourney behind two no-hitters by Klaiton Wolff and Adam Mayhaus.

The day began with a matchup of undefeated teams, the Citians of Central City, who came into action 4-0 and the ALIS Rockets, who entered the contest 6-0 on the season. The first five innings proved to be a pitching duel between the Rockets' Klaiton Wolff and the Citians' Derek Rowcliff.

The Rockets struck first, grabbing an early 1-0 first inning lead when Klaiton Wolff singled home Brett Harmeier, who had led off the game by being hit by the pitch and stealing second. In the fifth, a two-out rally by the Rockets led to two more runs. After the first two had gone out, Eric Wolff bounced a single through the right side and went to second on Harmeier's infield single. The runners then moved up to second and third on an errant throw by the Central City shortstop. Christian Freezeland's sharp grounder to third proved to be too much to handle and both Wolff and Harmeier scored.

In the fifth, though, Klaiton Wolff struggled with both his control and command. An error put a runner on to lead off the inning, and Wolff hit two and walked two, forcing in two runs. A wild pitch allowed the Citians to knot the score 3-3.

The Rockets responded immediately, however, in the sixth. After one was out, Eric Wolff walked, and Harmeier singled to put runners at first and second. With the infield playing back, Freezeland then laid down a bunt single to load the bases. Klaiton Wolff quickly unloaded them, blasting a triple over the left fielder's head to make the score 6-3. From there, the Rockets never looked back. Devon Guerrettaz singled Wolff home, Adam Mayhaus singled, Logan Deadmond singled home Guerrettaz and by the time Travis Whitt singled home Mayhaus, it was 9-3 Rockets. Kaleb Whitt's ground ball out chased home Deadmond to cap the seven run rally and make it 10-3.

K. Wolff rebounded from his one shaky inning and resumed mowing down Citian hitters, allowing only an unearned run in the sixth and blanking them in the seventh inning. By game's end, Wolff had piled up 17 strikeouts on his way to his second no-hitter of the week. Offensively, K. Wolff had two hits and four RBI, including the game-breaking triple. Devon Guerrettaz had two hits, scored a run and drove in a run. Brett Harmeier had two hits and scored three runs. Christian Freezeland, Adam Mayhaus, Logan Deadmond, Travis Whitt and Eric Wolff all had one hit each.

The Rockets scored 10 runs on 11 hits and committed 3 errors. Central City scored 4 runs on 0 hits and committed 6 errors. After Iuka defeated Steelville St. Mark's 17-4 in the other semi-final, Central City also beat St. Mark's 13-2 to claim the third place trophy.

The championship game between the ALIS Rockets and the Iuka Pirates was never in question. The Rockets put 14 runs on the board in the first inning en route to a 23-0 win, shortened to three innings because of the margin of victory. Devon Guerrettaz was the hitting star of the second game, going 4-for-4 with a single, two doubles, a triple, 4 runs scored and 5 RBI. Logan Deadmond had 3 hits, including 2 singles and a double, and Christian Freezeland had 2 singles, 4 runs scored and picked up 2 runs batted in. Klaiton Wolff blasted his second home run of the season, this one an inside-the-park type. Brett Harmeier, Austin Kline, Jacob Sigg, Adam Mayhaus, Noah Kopplin and Kaleb Whitt all collected singles for the Rockets.

On the hill for ALIS, Adam Mayhaus followed up Wolff's seven inning no-hitter with a three inning no-hitter of his own. Mayhaus got 8 of the 9 outs via strikeout, walked 2 and hit one. ALIS scored 23 runs on 16 hits and committed no errors, while Iuka scored no runs on no hits, while committing 5 errors.

The wins pushed the Rockets' record on the season to 8-0, during which time they outscored their opponents by a margin of 125 to 13. The Rockets are coached by Alan Whitt, Lance Freezeland, and Benton White.