

FORMER RIVER BANDITS LEAD CHIEFS TO SWEEP

Written by Marco LaNave

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Peoria moves one-half game ahead of Quad Cities for third place after third straight home win

PEORIA, III. (JUNE 10, 2013) – Former Quad Cities River Bandits left-hander Hector Hernandez held this year's team to one run on seven hits in seven innings, and former four-year River Bandit Robert Stock earned his first professional save in a 5-1 Peoria Chiefs win at Dozer Park Monday night.

Hernandez (3-2) kept his former club scoreless for the first six innings, but the River Bandits (34-28) missed opportunities in the third, fourth and fifth innings and left 11 runners on base Monday. The visiting team left 22 on base in the series and was outscored 15-2.

In the third inning, center fielder Teoscar Hernandez singled, and left fielder Ruben Sosa reached on a bunt single. With two runners on base and no outs, second baseman Austin Elkins popped up a bunt. Then shortstop Carlos Correa lined out to right field, and first baseman Jesse Wierzbicki flied out to right field to end the threat. Quad Cities got a fourth-inning, two-out double by catcher Roberto Pena, followed by designated hitter Brian Blasik's single – the team's only hit in 11 at-bats with runners in scoring position Monday. Quad Cities finished the three-game series 2-for-18 in such situations. Hector Hernandez fanned Teoscar Hernandez to keep the game scoreless through 3 ½ innings.

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In the bottom of the fourth inning, Chiefs left fielder and former River Bandit Jordan Walton hit a one-out single to right-center field, and third baseman Patrick Wisdom hit a two-out triple over the head of right fielder Terrell Joyce for the first run. Chiefs center fielder and former River Bandit Nick Martini lined a single to left field, scoring Wisdom for a 2-0 Chiefs lead. The River Bandits loaded the bases with one out in the fifth inning, but Hector Hernandez struck out Joyce and third baseman Rio Ruiz.

The Chiefs (34-27) added three more runs in the fifth inning, as catcher Gerwuins Velazco and second baseman Breyvic Valera started the inning with back-to-back singles. After shortstop Ildemaro Vargas popped out on a bunt attempt, designated hitter Jacob Wilson drove a two-run double down the left-field line to extend the lead to 4-0. Two batters later, first baseman Jeremy Schaffer added an RBI single for a 5-0 advantage. Cotton allowed all the Chiefs runs on eight hits and two walks while striking out two in five innings.

Quad Cities scored its only run in the seventh inning, as Sosa hit a leadoff single, stole second and third bases and scored on Correa's groundout. With a 5-1 deficit in the ninth inning, Sosa drew a one-out walk, and Elkins followed with a single off right-hander Joe Scanio. Stock then entered to face his former team for the first time since catching parts of three seasons and pitching one for the River Bandits. He allowed both runners to advance on a wild pitch before fanning Correa and Wierzbicki to end the game.

With the sweep, Peoria moved one-half game ahead of Quad Cities for third place in the Midwest League Western Division. With six days and seven games remaining for the River Bandits in the first half, they are four games behind second-place Beloit, which won its seventh straight game Monday. First-place Cedar Rapids is five games ahead of Quad Cities and begins a three-game series at Modern Woodmen Park Tuesday night. River Bandits right-hander Lance McCullers (3-4) will face Kernels left-hander Hein Robb (0-0) at 7 p.m.

UP NEXT: Fireworks conclude Thrivent Night in the first game of the River Bandits home stand Tuesday at Modern Woodmen Park. All tickets are buy-one-get-one free, kids eat free and fans can recycle a can or bottle of Mountain Dew at the gates for a free 16-ounce soda voucher on a Dew for Twosday presented by Pepsi, WOC and Q106.5. It's return home for Thrivent Night at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Single-game tickets are on sale at the River Bandits box office at Modern Woodmen Park, by phone at [563-324-3000](tel:563-324-3000) and online at www.riverbandits.com

Season ticket and mini-plan packages start at just seven games and begin at less than \$50. Call a River Bandits account representative today to choose your seats and get the details of our various mini-plan packages.