

Major League Baseball

Reds beat Marlins for 4th straight win

Bailey hurls six-hitter to get first victory since April 5

MIAMI (AP) — Homer Bailey pitched a six-hitter to earn his first victory since April 5, and the Cincinnati Reds extended their winning streak to four games by beating the Miami Marlins 6-2 Tuesday night.

Xavier Paul hit a three-run double for the Reds, who took advantage of consecutive bases-loaded walks by Ricky Nolasco. Brandon Phillips, who began the night tied for the NL lead in RBIs, drove in two runs.

Bailey (2-3), who threw a career-high 125 pitches, tied his major league best with 10 strikeouts and walked none in his fourth complete game. He retired the final eight batters, and his last pitch was a 97 mph fastball.

The right-hander, who has had spotty run support this season, lowered his ERA at night to 1.80. His ERA in three daytime starts is 7.16.

The Reds climbed a season-best seven games above .500 as they began a nine-game trip. The Marlins, who have the NL's worst record, lost their third game in a row and fell to 5-12 at home.

A brief, uncharacteristic bout of wildness proved costly for Nolasco

(2-5), who gave up six runs in five innings. He hit a batter with a pitch and walked two both with the bases loaded.

Joey Votto drove in a run and had three hits to hike his average to .322. Ryan Hanigan added two hits to raise his average to .149.

Miami batted rookies Derek Dietrich and Marcell Ozuna third and fourth. The strategy failed to jump-start an offense ranked last in the majors in runs, batting average and homers.

The Marlins have totaled three runs in Nolasco's past three starts.

Cincinnati broke the game open by scoring five runs in the second inning, all with two outs. Nolasco hit Shin-Soo Choo with a pitch and, after the Reds loaded the bases, walked Votto and Phillips to force in runs.

Nolasco then grooved a 3-1 pitch to Paul, who hit a three-run double that put Cincinnati ahead 6-1.

Phillips singled home a run in the first after Zack Cozart doubled and went to third on a single by Votto. Miami also scored in the first when Juan Pierre led off with a double and came home on a single by Dietrich.

Baseball

Troy-Piqua

CONTINUED FROM 13 him, and he had to re-enter defensively. Then he got another chance.

"He could have held his head and thought about how I pinch-hit for him, but he didn't. He stepped up when it mattered. He did a nice job — everybody did. Our pitchers, (Ben) Langdon and (Zach) Kendall, kept us in the game, our defense made some nice plays when they needed to make plays. We would have liked it have done it in seven, but I tell you what, that was pretty exciting for those boys. We haven't won a playoff game for at least four years, so to win a game like that against a quality opponent is nice. I have the utmost respect for coach (Jared) Adkins and their team. They competed, and it was a battle. We preach that, that's what we have prepared for all year — for that type of game."

Troy's Dylan Cascaden broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the third with a solo shot off of Piqua pitcher Colin Lavy. Then in the home fourth, Alex Magoteaux singled to start the inning. He was bunted to second by Greg Johnson, then Nadolny smacked a double into the gap to make it 2-0. Nadolny advanced to third on the throw home, then made a heady play on the basepaths to score on a shallow fly ball to first base.

Langdon had consecutive one-two-three innings to start the game before encountering trouble in the third and fourth innings.



Troy's Nick Sanders fields a ball during a game against Piqua Tuesday at Hardman Field.

Piqua had runners on first and second in the third with two outs, but Langdon struck out Justice Young to end the threat. The Indians again had runners on first and second in the fourth, before Langdon forced a ground out to get out unscathed.

The top of the sixth, however, was a different story for the Troy starter.

Young was hit to start the inning, then B.J. Marsh and Bryan Mace had back-to-back singles to load the bases. Langdon struck out the next hitter, but Austin Reedy followed with a one-run single and Michael Anderson's base hit plated two runs to tie the score at 3-3. Langdon finished off his

outing by recording two strikeouts against the final three batters he faced to end the inning.

And it looked like the Troy offense would be able to get Langdon the win in the bottom of the sixth as Nick Sanders launched a triple to begin the inning. Magoteaux was walked to put runners at the corners with no outs when Johnson came to the plate. Johnson hit a pop fly to Piqua right fielder Zach Nipher, who beamed it home to get Sanders by an inch at the plate, much to the chagrin of Welker and the Troy dugout. Still, the Trojans managed to plate the go-ahead run on an RBI single by Trenton Wood.

To their credit, the Indians were able to rally against new Troy pitcher Zach Kendall in the top of the seventh, as Buddy Nix's fly ball was deep enough to score Marsh and tie the score at 4-4.

Kendall settled down after the seventh. He continued to grind and worked his way out of jams in the eighth and ninth innings. Piqua's leadoff hitter (Young) reached in the ninth and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt. The Trojans got out of the jam, though, thanks to an untimely error on the base paths by the Indians. With one out, Mace hit a lazy fly ball to right and Young tagged to third. The umpires ruled that Young left early, and the Trojans got out of the inning.

Reedy entered to pitch for Piqua in the bottom of the seventh and proceeded to shut down the Troy offense for three innings, until he encountered problems in the 10th. Ace Cam Gordon took over with two runners on in the tenth and was able to get the Indians out of the inning.

Gordon, who had a 6-1 record coming into Tuesday, wasn't able to work his way out of trouble in the 11th, though.

McGraw made sure of that.

Piqua .000 003 100 00 — 4 7 1
Troy 001 201 000 01 — 5 8 2
Lavy, Baumeister (4), Reedy (7), Gordon (10) and Nix. Langdon, Kendall (7) and Nadolny. WP — Kendall. LP — Gordon. 2B — Nadolny (T). 3B — Sanders (T). HR — Cascaden (T). Records: Piqua 12-15. Troy 16-11.

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