

David Laughlin

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich - Central Michigan won today at Theunissen Stadium against the Western Michigan Broncos 10-4 to take the series with an opportunity to sweep the Broncos on Easter Sunday. The win today improves the Chippewas record to 19-15 and 8-0 in the MAC. Western Michigan drops to 13-17 on the season and 3-8 in the MAC.

Tyler Hankins started on the mound for the Chippewas, tossing a complete game and picking up his fourth win on the season (4-0). The Broncos started off hot against the 6'9" lefty, scoring two runs in the top half of the 1st inning thanks to back to back doubles and a fielder's choice. CMU was quick to storm back in the bottom half of the first with a huge grand slam off the bat of senior catcher Robert Greenman off of Western's starter Jimmy Townsend Chase (1-2). Greenman has boosted his average to .307 after batting .246 last season.

CMU added another run in the bottom of the second to take a 5-2 lead thanks to a sac fly from Alex Borglin. The Broncos tacked on another run in the 4th with a home run by Nate Grys to make it 5-3. The Chippewas once again answered though in the bottom half of the 4th with an RBI single from second baseman Jason Sullivan, making the score 6-3.

A solo shot in the 6th made it 6-4 CMU, and it was all Chippewas from there. CMU scored 3 runs in the bottom of the 6th and one more in 8th, ending with a final score of 10-4.

Hankins finished with a complete game, allowing 12 hits and 4 earned runs. The freshman also recorded four strikeouts and allowed one walk, throwing 126 pitches on the afternoon.

CMU ended with 7 hits on the day, Dan Robinson and Jason Sullivan each had two hits. Borglin, Greenman and Evan Kratt added a hit apiece as well.

The Broncos used six pitchers in all during the game this afternoon. Townsend Smith gave up 4 earned runs and took the loss. Eddie McWilliams gave up two earned runs as well, with Zach Mehelich and Matt McConnell each giving up a run.

"Hankins giving up only solo shots on a day like today is good" said Chippewa coach Steve Jaksa. "We got that big grand slam in the 1st from Robert and we rode that for a long way until we got a 3 in the 6th...We were able to answer every time they scored."

Coach Jaksa thought the offense also had a solid all around game. "I thought we had a lot of good at-bats today" Jaksa added. "We were able to keep them at bay and Hankins put them away."

CMU will be back in action on Easter Sunday from Theunissen Stadium to wrap up their home series against Western Michigan. Right-hander Pat Leatherman (4-3) is expected to start for Central Michigan, and Kyle Mallwitz (4-1) is scheduled to go for Western Michigan.