

# Hannibal Falls to Quincy

## Defensive troubles strike both teams

*June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010*



HANNIBAL, MO – The Quincy Gems came into town Tuesday night to face the Hannibal Cavemen at historic Clemens Field for the second meeting of the 2010 season. The night would be highlighted by an immense struggle on the field for both teams which included eight total errors combined for the Gems and Cavemen.

The score was tied at zero a piece until the Gems struck first in the top of the fourth inning. After Quincy's first basemen Jake Hibberd reached on an error by Cavemen first basemen Ryan Porter (Rockhurst), Trent Copeland knocked an RBI single to right field to put the Gems up 1-0.

Hannibal would respond at the plate in the bottom half of the fourth inning when Pat Sheehan (University of Illinois) drew a walk and was the Cavemen's first base runner on the night. Quincy's starting pitcher, Steven Moranda, retired the first 10 Hannibal batters he faced. The nightmare of a night for Gems' shortstop Alex Jones would then begin after he made his first of four errors on the evening on a ball hit by Cavemen first basemen Ryan Porter. Sheehan would score on the misplay and the score was now tied at one each.

The bottom of the fifth for Quincy's Alex Jones would turn out to be an inning he would never want to remember. Hannibal would reach base on three errors by Jones in the inning but they could only capitalize with one additional run on the scoreboard which put them ahead 2-1.

The Cavemen (5-4) would add to their lead in the sixth inning as Ryan Porter started things off with a leadoff walk. Matt Burton (Redlands Community College, OK) would also draw a walk and catcher Brad Moss (Samford) would come to the plate with two runner on and two outs. Moss delivered with a clutch RBI single to right and the hit also marked the first Hannibal base hit on the night. Hannibal now held a 3-1 lead over the Gems.

Hannibal would let the game slip away in the eighth inning after the defensive troubles switched over to their side. Shortstop Jerry Hildreth (Mississippi Valley St.) would commit two errors himself and Quincy (3-3) would make the most of it by adding three unearned runs to put them ahead by a score of 4-3.

Gems' Travis Ruppel earned the victory in relief of Steven Moranda, who gave up zero hits despite giving up two unearned runs. Quincy's Aaron Brett recorded two shutout innings to close out the game and was awarded with the save. Hannibal's Zach LaSuzzo (0-1) suffered the loss.

The Cavemen hit the road for a week long road trip and will visit Dubois Wednesday night with the first pitch 7:05 PM (CT).

Andy Oldenburg  
Hannibal Cavemen Baseball  
andy@hannibalbaseball.com