

Irish Sweep Tulane

Written by Sean Stires

Sunday, 24 February 2013 16:14



NEW ORLEANS, La. - The Notre Dame baseball team is in select company after beating Tulane 8-3 Sunday afternoon at Turchin Stadium. The victory capped a three-game weekend sweep for the Irish - making them the first non-conference opponent to sweep a series at Tulane since 1997.

The Irish (5-1) jumped on the scoreboard in the first inning for a second straight game with two runs. Leadoff man Frank DeSico, who started the game with a walk, scored the first run on a sacrifice fly by Eric Jagielo. Ryan Bull later scored on a sac fly by Charlie Markson.

Bull finished with a career-best four-hit game, including his first home run of the season in the seventh inning. Bull and Markson traded spots in the order on Sunday, with Bull moving up from fifth to the two-hole in the series finale against Tulane (3-4)

Irish starting pitcher David Hearne lasted just 2.2 innings. He allowed a run on four hits with three walks after throwing 63 pitches. Donnie Hissa then chipped-in with 2.1 innings of relief.

Freshman Nick McCarty (2-0) earned his second collegiate win in as many weeks after firing 4.0 one-hit innings. The Westfield, Ind native retired the first nine batters he faced before a leadoff walk and a single in the ninth inning. It marked McCarty's third relief outing of his young career.

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"This is completely foreign to me," McCarty said afterward of coming out of the bullpen. "I started all through high school, so I never really got the whole bullpen experience. This is awesome. I couldn't be happier doing the job that I am right now. Having the coaches' trust to put me in these big situations - I'm very happy."

Eric Jagielo capped a big weekend by going 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI on Sunday. Jagielo was 4-for-9 overall for the weekend with a home run, four RBIs, an .889 slugging percentage, and a .462 on base percentage.

"He's honestly amazing," McCarty said of his All-American candidate teammate. "He's the biggest part of our lineup right now. It's so nice having him and Trey Mancini at three and four in the heart of our lineup."

Jagiello is batting .500 (10-for-20) for the season with three home runs, 12 RBIs and a pair of doubles.

Notre Dame plays four games next weekend at the Irish Baseball Classic in Cary, NC. Tennessee, UMass, Virginia Tech, and Rhode Island are the four opponents.