

Husker Baseball Team Opens Series with Win

Lincoln - Home runs in the bottom of the eighth inning from Cory Burleson and Chad Christensen secured a 9-2 win for the Huskers in the first game of a four-game series with the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs on Thursday afternoon at Hawks Field. Burleson earned his home run the hard way, as the Bulldogs' Sam Alvis missed the ball on a diving attempt in center field and the ball rolled all the way to the wall. It was the first inside-the-park home run by a Husker since Jake Mullinax hit one against West Virginia in 2004.

Christensen came up a double shy of the cycle with a 3-for-5 day, as he hit a single in the first, a triple in the fifth and a homer in the eighth to tie a career high with four RBI's. With team-highs in both home runs (4) and RBI's (23) this season, Christensen has 11 multi-hit games on the year, including four games with three hits.

After going a season-low three innings against Cal in his last start, sophomore Zach Hirsch bounced back with 5.1 innings of solid baseball on the mound for the Huskers to improve to 2-1 on the year. The lefty retired and first six Bulldogs he faced and gave up two runs on five hits, while striking out three and walking none. Dylan Vogt, Tyler King and Brandon Pierce pitched the final 3.2 innings and gave up just one hit, with Pierce earning his first save of the season.

With the game tied going into the bottom of the fifth, the Huskers strung together three straight hits with one out to retake the lead. Rich Sanguinetti got the rally going with a single to right field and came around to score on Christensen's triple off the left field wall. Richard Stocked followed with a single to center on an 0-2 count to drive in Christensen for his 14th RBI of the year.

After adding an insurance run in the sixth to go up 5-2, the Huskers sealed the game with four runs in the eighth. Blake Headley led off the inning with his first hit of the game and came in to score on Burleson's inside the parker. Following a pair of outs, Sanguinetti kept the inning alive with a single, which allowed Christensen to blast a two-run shot in the left-center-field berm for his 12th and 13th two-out RBI's of the season.

The Huskers will go for their third straight win today when the two teams meet at 1:35 p.m. Jon Keller will take his 2-0 record to the mound for the Huskers, while the Bulldogs are set to send junior righty Trevor Petersen to the mound. All kids eighth grade and younger will receive free admission into tomorrow's game.