

Sterling Xpress dominant in 2 wins

The team won 21-6 over the Golden Grizz and 5-0 over the Colorado Pirates

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Ryan Sparks became the first player in the history of the Xpress to hit for the cycle Saturday. (Kyle Inman / Sterling Journal-Advocate)

The Sterling Xpress turned in some outstanding individual performances in defeats of the Golden Grizz and Colorado Pirates on Saturday at Plainsmen Park.

Pitcher Jay Kiel hasn't allowed a run yet this summer as he threw his second complete game shutout in a 5-0 victory over the Pirates. Kiel allowed just two hits in seven innings with seven strikeouts and three walks. The defense backed him up by committed no errors.



JT Patterson hit two home runs in a 21-6 win over the Golden Grizz. (Kyle Inman / Sterling Journal-Advocate)

"My cutter is looking really well and keeping them off balance," the pitcher said. "I'm getting a lot of weak contact. I've thrown 12 innings this summer and given up four hits; that's not terrible."



Jay Kiel threw his second consecutive shutout in a 5-0 win over the Pirates. (Kyle Inman / Sterling Journal-Advocate)

banged it off the wall."

Coach Paul Koss said it was very special to see as it was the first time a player that he was coaching accomplished the feat. The Xpress bats also filled up the scoreboard in the first game against the Grizz with a 21-6 victory.

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JT Patterson continues to hit home runs this summer, blasting two against the Grizz to bring his summer total to eight. Patterson went 3-for-4, batted in five runners and was walked twice.

Sparks' bat was hot against the Grizz as well. He went 2-for-3 with a double and a triple with three RBI and took two walks. Caleb Davis contributed with two hits that knocked in five runners while Lucas Lingreen hit two doubles and a single, batting in two runners and needs one more RBI to become the team all-time RBI leader. Trey Compton homered in his only hit of the game, scoring two runners.

"We're playing great and seeing the ball well," Sparks said. "Getting those timely runs is a big key to winning games."

Marc Alva started on the mound against the Pirates and threw four innings, giving up four hits and two earned runs while walking two and striking out three. He was relieved by Matt Vickers, who threw two innings, striking out four and walking seven.

The wins bring the Xpress record to 9-5 on the season, winning five out of its last six games. The team will try to carry the momentum into its game with the Fort Collins Foxes at Plainsmen Park on Monday at 6:30 p.m.

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