

# CAPE COD LEAGUE

## CAPE COD LEAGUE: Workman has no-hitter broken up in ninth in Wareham win

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WAREHAM — A day after the Fourth, a first almost happened for the Wareham Gatemen.

Brandon Workman came within two outs of pitching a no-hitter Saturday night in the team's 4-0 Cape Cod Baseball League win over Cotuit at Spillane Field.

A 6-foot-5 right-hander from the University of Texas, Workman notched 13 strikeouts and finished with a two-hitter.

"That was exciting. It would have been even better if I had gotten those last two outs, but I was happy with the way I threw the ball," said Workman, who hails from Bowie, Texas, and recorded two no-hitters in high school. "I'm getting better from game-to-game, and that's the most important thing for me right now."

According to team president and public-address announcer John Wylde, who's in his 25th season with the Gatemen, no other Wareham pitcher has taken a no-hitter further into a game. Wylde said the next closest was Steve Stapleton, who had a no-hitter broken up after 7 2/3 innings in 1993.

"I was a little wild warming up, but I felt fine once the game got going," Workman said. "I threw a lot of fastballs and curveballs. I was still hitting my spots, even in the ninth. (Cotuit) just put two good swings together. Throwing a no-hitter would have been great, but I'm just glad I was able to win one for the team."

Buddy Munroe, a catcher from the University of Florida, said Workman established his fastball early and got stronger as the game went on.

"Brandon did a nice job locating his fastball in and out and he also had a good curveball," said Munroe, who caught his only no-hitter in high school. "He had good velocity the whole game and I think he bumped it up a little in the ninth. His adrenaline was pumping and he made two good pitches on the hits he gave up."

After fanning Cotuit catcher Robert Stock to start the ninth, left fielder Mike Bianucci and second baseman Evan Crawford lined clean singles between shortstop and third base to break up the no-hitter.

Wareham pitching coach Ryan Beggs made a visit to the mound to calm Workman down, and Workman (2-1) responded by striking out first baseman Kevin Patterson and getting the final out on a grounder to short by third baseman Jeff Kobernus.

"Once the no-hitter was gone, I had to take a breath and focus on finishing the game," Workman said. "I didn't want to come out. I wanted to go the distance and I knew I still had some work to do."

The Gatemen (6-11-1) gave Workman a 4-0 lead to work with after scoring a pair of runs in the first and second innings against Cotuit starter Paul Applebee, a left-hander from the University of California-Riverside, who went the distance for the Kettleers and scattered 10 hits.

Raynor Campbell, a third baseman from Baylor, got the Gatemen going in the first with a leadoff infield hit and he moved to second base on a sacrifice bunt by Ryan Pineda, a second baseman from Cal State Northridge.

Brett Eibner, a center fielder from the University of Arkansas, followed with a single to left and Campbell scored on a grounder up the middle by Blake Deane, a designated hiter from LSU, that hit the second-base bag and bounced away from Cotuit shortstop Michael Gilmartin.

The Gatemen made it a 2-0 game after Applebee threw wildly to first base on a pickoff attempt with runners on first and third, and they capped their scoring in the second when Pineda knocked in a pair of runs with a one-out blooper to right over a drawn-in infield with runners on second and third.

Workman retired the first seven batters he faced before issuing a one-out walk to Cotuit designated hitter Dallas Poulk in the third, but Poulk was erased when Stock bounced into an inning-ending 6-4-3 double play.

Workman went on to set Cotuit down in order in the fifth, seventh and eighth innings and he came out strong for the ninth before the Kettleers broke up the no-hitter on back-to-back swings by Bianucci and Crawford that produced clean singles to left.

The only blemishes for Workman were the solo walks he gave up in the third, fourth and sixth innings.

The Gatemen play a 5 p.m. game at Yarmouth-Dennis today.

Contact Ed Collins at [ecollins@s-t.com](mailto:ecollins@s-t.com)

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