



Bulls end Ginter's streak, subdue PawSox

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DURHAM, N.C. -- Pawtucket pitcher Matt Ginter knows he's not Orel Hershiser.

But for a while, it was fun to dream. Ginter was 17 percent of the way to matching the former Dodger pitcher's 1988 record of 59 straight shutout innings, having tossed 10 innings without allowing a run.

Ginter's (1-1) run of zeroes ended in the first inning of the PawSox' series-opening 9-6 loss to the Durham Bulls last night. The home team's potent offense (70 runs in 13 games) needed just five innings to rap 10 hits, score six runs and inflate Ginter's E.R.A. from zero to 3.60.

The loss dropped Pawtucket to 2-3 on its current road trip.

Since he's had similar runs during his career, both in the major leagues and the minors, Ginter wasn't beating himself up about the streak coming to an end.

"You're not going to get through a whole season without giving up any runs," he said. "It's bound to happen;it's just a matter of when."

After the PawSox scored on an RBI single by Dustin Pedroia in the first, the Bulls came back with two runs in the bottom of the inning in a way that didn't worry Ginter.

After starting the inning with an infield single, leadoff man Darnell McDonald advanced to second on a single by Delmon Young and stole third. Catcher Ken Huckaby's one-hop throw got away from third baseman Enrique Wilson, and both runners advanced as the ball rolled into foul territory beyond third base. Young then scored on a groundout.

"Basically, you've got to make the pitches," said Ginter, who gave up five ground-ball singles. "If something happens like that, you can't let that frustrate you."

The PawSox evened the score with a run in the second, but Ginter struggled through the third and fourth innings, facing 11 batters and allowing a run, on a single by McDonald.

But it wasn't until the fifth that Ginter threw a pitch that he regretted.

With Young and Elijah Dukes on base, Kevin Witt ripped a 425-foot home run to left-center that made it 6-2. Ginter got out of the inning without allowing another run, but did not return for the sixth.

Manager Ron Johnson didn't see a significant difference between last night's outing and Ginter's two previous appearances.

"Matt threw the ball no different today; it's just a matter of placement that got him tonight," Johnson said.

While Ginter struggled to, sidearming reliever Cla Meredith silenced the Durham bats in the sixth and seventh. He struck out four of the first five batters he faced, including Dukes and Witt in the seventh.

If it hadn't been for the three runs Craig Breslow allowed in the eighth, which gave Durham a 9-2 cushion, the PawSox might have sent the game into extra innings with their walk-fueled four-run rally in the ninth.

On the 25th anniversary of the longest (33 innings) game in pro baseball history -- in which Pawtucket defeated Rochester, 3-2, at McCoy Stadium -- the PawSox threatened to tie the game in the ninth.

With two outs, the bases loaded and the PawSox down, 9-6, Dustin Pedroia came to bat against Jon Switzer.

Switzer, the Bulls' second pitcher of the inning -- J.P. Miadich gave up four runs on three walks in two-thirds of an inning -- got Pedroia on a checked-swing bloop that bounced in front of second baseman Fernando Cortez.

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