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The following is the result of the Purdue University vs. Southern California of their 6:00 pm game against University of Illinois on April 30th, 2014.

Game protested by Purdue for an Umpire Decision in violation of NCBA Rules.

Requested action – Forfeit

Protest:

Purdue is protesting their 6:00 pm, 4/30/14 game against Illinois, requesting a forfeit victory because Illinois made substitutions without reporting the changes to the umpire as per section 5.04.0 of the NCBA Rule Book.

5.04.0 All substitutions must be reported directly to the home plate umpire at the time of the substitution.

Purdue Head Coach Luke Versprille Stated, “THE GAME BETWEEN PURDUE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS WAS ANNOUNCED TO BEING PLAYED UNDER PROTEST IN THE TOP OF THE 8TH INNING AS A RESULT OF A ROSTER/SUBSTITUTION VIOLATION MADE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS. IN THE BOTTOM OF THE 7TH INNING, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PINCH HIT #10 FOR # 31 IN THE EIGHTH SPOT IN THE BATTING ORDER. AFTER A SUCCESSFUL DOUBLE, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS THEN PINCH RAN #42 FOR #10. UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE INNING, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS TOOK THE FIELD WITHOUT REPORTING ANY ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO THE UMPIRE. HOWEVER, I IMMEDIATELY NOTICED #42 WAS NOT IN THE FIELD OF PLAY AND DECIDED TO CALL THE UMPIRE OVER FOR A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SUBSTITUTION. UPON DISCUSSING, IT WAS ALSO NOTICED ILLINOIS HAD MADE ANOTHER SUBSTITUTION WITHOUT REPORTING EITHER ONE OF THEM. AT THIS POINT, THE DH (#33) ENTERED THE GAME TO PLAY 3RD BASE IN ADDITION TO #42 NO LONGER BEING IN THE LINEUP. IT'S WAS QUITE CONCERNING AND BROUGHT INTO QUESTION THE INTEGRITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND THE USE OF SUBSTITUTIONS WITHOUT PROPERLY REPORTING TO THE UMPIRE. AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH THE UMPIRE, THERE WAS A DECISION MADE THAT RESULTED IN ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAPPENING AND JUST ALLOWED THE GAME TO CONTINUE. I'M MOSTLY CONCERNED WITH THE LACK OF REPORTING ON SUBSTITUTIONS MADE BY THE UNIVERSITY AND QUESTION OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THIS RULE. WITH THAT BEING SAID, IT SEEMS APPROPRAITE THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BE FORCED TO FORFEIT THE GAME FOR UNAUTHRIZED SUBSTITUTIONS OF PLAYERS DEFENSIVELY.” Additionally he added, “Also, below is what happened in a more concise format: Top 7th - #3 Richter entered into the pitcher spot for # 9 Haynes; Bottom 7th - #10 Lee PH for #31 Malter, #42 then pitch ran for #10 after the double; Top 8th - #33 was in game at 3rd Base, # 3 Richter was still on the mound. #42 was no longer in the lineup.”

Defense:

Illinois President Tyler Muncy Stated, “Purdue University has protested that we, the University of Illinois, knowingly committed an illegal substitution following the conclusion of the seventh inning in our game this past Wednesday, April 30th. Purdue has alleged that we failed to report our substitutions to the home plate



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umpire, Keith Kuchenbecker, and, as a result, should be forced to forfeit the game. The following is our detailed response to the aforementioned protest:

At the beginning of the bottom of the 7th inning, Illinois substituted #10, Brandon Lee, into the batting order for #31, Drew Malter. Lee doubled to begin the inning and was then taken out of the game by a pinch runner in #42, Daniel Oversen. The game being tied at the conclusion of the inning forced the game into extra innings, thus leading to the beginning of the 8th inning. Bryce Richter, #3, was called in to pitch, reported his entry into the game and, it was assumed that Richter would automatically be inserted into the #8 spot in our batting lineup which, at the point when Richter entered the game, was no longer occupied by now-former pinch runner Daniel Oversen. Subsequently, #33, A.J. Sus, who had previously occupied the #5 spot as the DH, now entered the field to play 3rd base (thus terminating the DH), moving Keenan Connelly (who had been playing 3rd base) over to play short stop in place of the now-removed #31, Drew Malter. The following NCBA rule applies to this situation:

*17.04.1.1.5 A.R. 2—The DH is moved to a defensive position and the pitcher remains in the game as the pitcher. If the DH is placed at a defensive position, the DH is terminated. The former DH, who now is a defensive player, must continue to bat in the original DH spot. The pitcher **must bat** in the lineup spot of the removed defensive player).*

In response to Purdue's statement that these substitutions weren't reported to the home plate umpire, Richter clearly and promptly alerted the home plate umpire that he was entering the game to pitch, and our team, in accordance with the above-cited rule, assumed that both Purdue and the umpire would place Richter in the #8 spot in the order automatically. Furthermore, because the DH spot had been terminated with Richter, the pitcher, now occupying a spot in the batting order, our team also assumed Sus, the now-former DH who was kept in the same batting spot after being moved to 3rd base as the rule demands he be, was accounted for as well. Lastly, although we feel that both of these substitutions were legal and made clear by the very definition of NCBA rules, we would like to add that Purdue did *not* raise concern nor make their intent to protest known until after there was already 1 out in the top of the 8th inning. In which case, the following NCBA rule should render Purdue's protest entirely invalid:

*24.02.2 Any On Field protest by the coach of a competing team must be made **at the time of the action** or incident that caused the protest and **before play is resumed.**"*

Investigation:

The NCBA interviewed the home plate umpire (K. Kuchenbecker) who worked the game in question. He stated that Purdue did inform him that Purdue voiced concern with the substitutions that Illinois made surrounding their DH and Pitcher positions. He admits he had to think about it for a few minutes but determined that the substitutions made were legal by NCAA/NCBA rule which are one and the same regarding the DH substitution rules. He also stated that Illinois made several substitutions late in the game, they were made incrementally, and every single one was reported to him and acknowledged with a nod of the head. He admits he may or may not have reported all of the substitutions to the Purdue bench.

Ruling: Both Protest Denied – The NCBA agrees that the substitutions made by Illinois were in fact legal by NCBA rules and given that the umpire states that all substitutions were reported to him by Illinois, no NCBA Rule violation took place. Score will remain Illinois 6 Purdue 5.

Sandy Sanderson
NCBA President