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The following is the result of the University of Illinois protest of their 12:00 pm game against Purdue University on March 30th, 2013.

Game protested by Illinois for failure to provide Official NCBA Game Balls by Purdue.

Requested action - Forfeit game.

Protest:

Illinois is protesting their 12:00 pm, 3/30/13 game against Purdue, requesting a forfeit victory because Purdue failed to provide Official NCBA Game balls as per section 12.00.0 of the NCBA Rule Book.

12.01.0 The official league ball of the NCBA will be the Rawlings R1NCBA baseball featuring the NCBA logo.

12.02.0 During **NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games**, the home team is responsible for providing a sufficient quantity of official league baseballs for each competition.

12.03.0 Any game played without the official league ball will result in a forfeit against the home team.

Illinois Club Baseball President Chas Evans Stated, "DURING THE 3RD INNING OF THE GAME, ONE OF OUR PLAYERS RETRIEVED A FOUL BALL AND NOTICED IT WAS NOT AN NCBA OFFICIAL LEAGUE BALL. OUR HEAD COACH, WHO WAS ON BASE THE ENTIRE INNING WAS NOTIFIED AFTER THE INNING AND HE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED THE UMPIRE. THE UMPIRE ASKED THE PURDUE COACH TO SUPPLY NCBA OFFICIAL LEAGUE BALLS TO WHICH HE SAID THEY COULD NOT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY. WE TOLD THEM THAT WE WERE GOING TO PROTEST THE GAME. ACCORDING TO NCBA RULE 12.00, "THE OFICIAL LEAGUE BALL OF THE NCBA WILL BE THE RAWLINGS R1NCBA BASEBALL FEATURING THE NCBA LOGO. DURING NCBA SANTIIONED BASEBALL GAMES, THE HOME TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF OFFICIAL LEAGUE BASEBALL FOR EACH COMPETITION. ANY GAME PLAYED WITHOUT THE OFFICIAL LEAGUE BALL WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT AGAINST THE HOME TEAM." AT THE TIME OF THE PROTEST THE SCORE WAS TIED 1-1 AND PURDUE ENDED UP WINNING 6-1."

Defense:

Purdue Club Baseball President Bryan Epsky stated, "THERE WERE SOME WILSON 1010 BALLS USED TO SUPPLEMENT THE ORIGINAL SUPPLY OF RAWLINGS R1NCBA BASEBALLS. WE ALWAYS BEGIN EACH GAME WITH FOUR BASEBALL SUPLIED TO THE UMPIRE AND THEN HAVE SUPPLY ON HAND TO FULFILL LOST, CUT, UNUSABLE BALLS AS DEEMED APPROPRAITE BY THE UMPIRE. IN THIS CASE OF THIS GAME OUR FIELD HAS JUST RECEOVERED FROM THE WEATHER, INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 8" OF SNOW ON THE FIELD. THE PURDUE BASEBALL TEAM SPENT APPROXIMATELY 50 MAN HOURS OVER THE COURSE OF THURSDAY AND FRIDAY TO GET THE FIELD PREPARED TO PLAY AT LEAST THE DOUBLEHEADER OF THE SERIES VERSUS THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON SATURDAY. DUE TO THE WORK, WE WERE



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ABLE TO GET THE FIELD IN SAFE AND PLAYABLE CONDITION, BUT THE RUN-OFF TRENCHES WHICH COMPLETELY SURROUND OUR FIELD WERE STILL 12" DEEP WITH WATER. AFTER ALREADY SUPPLYING MULTIPLE RAWLINGS LEAGUE BALLS, WE TOOK WILSON A1010 BALLS TO THE UMPIRE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE TWO GAMES WE PLAYED ON SATURDAY 18 TOTAL BASEBALLS WERE UTILIZED AND IN OUR OPINION AS A TEAM, IT WAS NOT EFFICIENT OR ECONOMICAL TO UTILIZE ALL OF OUR LEAGUE BASEBALLS TO GET THROUGH THE TWO GAMES PLAYED. BOTH TEAMS PLAYED UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS AND IT WAS CLEAR THIS DID NOT IMPACT THE RESULTS OF THE GAME.”

Investigation:

The NCBA interviewed both umpires who worked the game in question. Plate Umpire Gary Schiller, confirmed that in the 3rd inning he was approached by the Illinois Head Coach stating that he was playing the game under protest because the balls provided by Purdue were NOT Official NCBA Game balls. He also confirmed that he immediately notified the Purdue Coach that Illinois was playing the game under protest because the baseballs were not the proper official league ball. Additionally, he confirmed that Purdue did not rectify the problem by replacing the illegal game balls with legal NCBA Game balls.

Ruling: Protest Granted – While the NCBA applauds Purdue’s efforts to get the field prepared to play baseball, and we acknowledge Purdue’s defense that both teams played with the same baseballs, the fact is that NCBA Rule 12.03.0 and 12.04.0 were violated by Purdue and thus the NCBA has no choice but to issue a forfeit victory to Illinois. The score of this game will be updated to reflect a 7 to 0 victory for Illinois and all player statistics should be disallowed for each team. The NCBA would like to specifically point out the fact that Illinois protested this game perfectly. They notified the umpire as soon as they noticed the violation, the umpire immediately notified Purdue, and Purdue had the opportunity to rectify the violation. Had they simply replaced the illegal baseballs with legal NCBA Game balls the protest would have been dismissed (See Macon State vs. Georgia 2012).

Sandy Sanderson
NCBA President