CINCINNATI REGISTER

OCTOBER 17, 2032 · THE CINCINNATI REGENTS BEAT

Colonna mashes five homers; Cincy still goes home

BY **WENDELL BARR** · CINCINNATI REGISTER

October 15, in Cincinnati. Boston 8, Regents 3. Game 6. That was the season.

It ended in the first round, four games to two. In my last piece I wrote that the Regents were playing in October and that I had not expected it. They played six games in it. They won two.

The first one was here, on the 8th, and it was the first postseason win this franchise has had since it moved to Cincinnati. Regents 10, Boston 7. Danny Badillo hit two home runs and drove in four. Pat Colonna hit one in the eighth that the box score says went 498 feet. Matt Burke started and gave up six runs in four and a third innings, and the club won anyway.

Before the series Chris told me Josh Baker's injury was not serious and that he would move down the rotation, and that Burke and Chris Hartke, who have both won championships elsewhere, were "both more than capable to take the ball in Game 1." Burke started Games 1 and 5. Hartke started Games 2 and 6. Between them they pitched 18 and two-thirds innings, allowed 13 earned runs, walked 10 and lost three times. Baker started Game 3 in Boston, allowed one run in five and a third, and the Regents won 16-1. Akira Nakamoto started Game 4 and walked five in three innings.

That 16-1 game was Colonna's. Two home runs, five runs batted in, 19 hits for the club. He finished the series with five home runs and nine runs batted in in six games. Badillo hit .400 with three home runs. Matt Kopacka hit three. The Regents out-homered Boston 13 to eight.

They scored 31 runs. So did Boston. The difference was what happened with men on base. After the deadline this lineup hit .297 with runners in scoring position, the best in baseball over those two months. In this series it hit .220. Joe Duemler, who hit .338 in those spots all season, went 6-for-23 without a home run. Eric Chini struck out 10 times. Jody Woffinden went 4-for-25. And the pitching walked 24 men in six games.

Two of the losses belong to Juan Hernandez, who pitched for Boston in Games 2 and 6 and gave up two runs in 13 and two-thirds innings. In Game 2 he struck out 11 and the Regents lost 3-0. The other two belong to Edgar Tyler, who hit two home runs in Game 5 and had 13 hits in the series.

Nick Addison, who went 15-0 this season, pitched one inning, in the 16-1 game. Chris said his role would be fluid and that he was unlikely to be the first man out of the bullpen. He was not. He finished the year without a loss.

The franchise has not won a postseason series since 2009, when it was the Atlanta Smashers. It has now played one as the Cincinnati Regents.

Here is the winter, and it is short. Almost all of this team comes back. Four players reach free agency, Matt Klaus, Casey Arthur, Craig Lewis and Preston Wright, and between them they cost about $7.5 million this year. Next year's commitments already stand at $122.3 million, including Juan Martinez through 2035, Burke through 2034, and Hartke and Duemler through 2036. Colonna, Chini, Woffinden and Danny Day go to arbitration. Jordan Montanez tore his labrum on October 4 and was expected to miss about three months. He is on a new four-year deal that starts next season.

So the Regents won 100 games and come back nearly whole. People in this town will want to hear that in March. I heard the same thing in Atlanta, about the same franchise.