

Clark College baseball falls to Concordia

The Columbian

Lee Brand sees continuing improvement in the Clark College club baseball team, despite a 6-1 loss Wednesday to the Concordia University junior varsity at the Clark field.

The Penguins (1-4) led 1-0 after six innings before allowing a run on a seventh-inning balk. The Cavaliers tacked on four runs in the top of the ninth to secure the victory.

"We were ahead for a couple of innings, then they tied it up and went ahead," Brand said. "They scored their game-winning run on a balk. They had runners on first and third, and our pitcher balked in the run. In the ninth,

the floodgates opened a little bit. It was a pretty good game until that ninth inning there, when Concordia started hitting the ball a little bit."

Brandon Brown pitched seven innings for Clark and took the loss, allowing two runs on three hits. He had five strikeouts and allowed six walks. Concordia got to reliever Jordan Ray in the ninth before Blake Kellams retired the only batter he faced to get the Penguins out of the inning.

Ben Madison and Corey Brede each singled for Clark's two hits.

Clark scored in the second inning when Blake Babnick and Madison worked a double

steal. Babnick took first base after being hit by a pitch, then advanced to third on when an errant pickoff attempt by Concordia's pitcher turned into a two-base error.

"Brandon Brown threw a nice game, and we played defense really well," Brand said. "The bright spot was that we didn't have very many strikeouts at the plate. We're coming around and starting to hit the ball. We're making strides. We're getting better and improving every game."

Clark plays this weekend at Seattle University and George Fox, before playing host to Concordia again March 10.