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Late-Inning Heroics Send Baseball To 9-8 Victory Over UW-Milwaukee

David Cales hits game-tying two-run shot, Larry Gempp Jr. drives in game-winner during exciting comeback in home opener.

March 23, 2007

[Box Score](#)

Chicago, Ill.- [David Cales](#) hit a game-tying two-run homer in the eighth to set up [Larry Gempp Jr.'s](#) game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the ninth, sending the UIC baseball team to a thrilling 9-8 victory over Horizon League rival UW-Milwaukee in the Flames' home opener at Les Miller Field on Friday afternoon.

The Flames improved to 6-10 overall and 1-0 in Horizon League play, while the Panthers drop to 0-14 and 0-1 in league action.

UIC's comeback marked the fourth time this season that the Flames have rallied to win in the ninth.

Reliever [Andrew Davis](#) picked up his third win of the year, while Andy Hetebrueg was tagged with the loss.

"I thought we competed all day long," said UIC head coach [Mike Dee](#). "It was a great game and I thought our guys hung in there very well. Anytime you beat Milwaukee it's a good day."

Both teams combined for 12 runs and 14 hits in the first three innings alone before a 48-minute rain delay halted action.

UW-Milwaukee took an early 3-0 lead after Shawn Wozniak's bases-loaded sac fly to left scored the game's first run and a double off the bat of Grant Berkovitz drove in two more.

After tallying a run in its half of the first on a [Micky Pingree](#) RBI double, UIC countered again by scoring five runs with two out in the bottom of the second inning. Three consecutive singles eventually allowed [Chris Rutta](#) to score, and after Gempp was hit by a pitch to load the bases, [Ben Trotter](#) delivered a two-run single to center to give UIC its first lead at 4-3.

Pingree then stepped up to mash his second straight double and bring in two more runs during the Flames' second frame.

The Panthers answered with three runs in the third to knot the game. Five UWM singles off of UIC starter [Zach Peterson](#) evened the game at 6-6.

Prior to the fourth inning the game was halted due to rain. When play resumed both Peterson and Panther starter Robert Michalkiewicz returned to the bump for their respective teams, and offense for either team became hard to come by. Peterson threw four hitless innings to cap his outing prior to the eighth, while Michalkiewicz allowed just one hit heading into the final two innings of the contest.

In UW-Milwaukee's half of the eighth UIC reliever [Kyle Dotson](#) gave up a one-out single to Berkovitz and hit Ross McCoy with a pitch to put two Panthers on base. Davis came in to induce a Hetebrueg groundout before Kyle Silver's single brought home two runs to give the visitors an 8-6 advantage.

With two out in the Flames' eighth, [Jake Carr](#) hit a popup behind the plate that would have ended the frame, but UWM catcher Dan Buchholz slipped and was unable to record the out.

That gave Carr new life at the plate, and the sophomore first baseman re-focused to single up the middle and bring Cales to

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David Cales hit a huge game-tying home run in the eighth for UIC.

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the batter's box. Cales then launched a Michalkiewicz offering over the left field fence to tie the game at 8-8.

In the top of the ninth the Panthers had a runner at second with one out, but [Chad Schroeder](#) made an amazing diving catch of a low Wozniak liner headed up the middle and turned it into a double play after a nice toss to Cales at second forced out Rob Brockel to end the inning.

Schroeder led off the ninth with a walk off of Hetebrueg, followed by [Nick Rainwater's](#) single. That set up Gempp, who hit a single to left center to drive Schroeder home with the game-deciding tally.

"We don't talk a lot about coming back," Dee said on the team's outlook on trailing in a game. "We just really talk about playing nine innings. We don't see that as coming back, we see it as we still got a couple innings to play.

"Our guys don't panic, and they've done a good job of that all year in playing nine innings and seeing where were at the end of nine innings, and I thought they did a real good job of that today."

UIC will resume its series against UW-Milwaukee with a twinbill this Saturday, March 24th beginning at 12:05 p.m. at Les Miller Field.

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