



caption: hBristol Badgers' Alberto Loreto in action against Oxford Kings

Badgers record double win over the Kings

THE Bristol Badgers continued their AAA League title charge with a stunning double-header success over defending champions Oxford Kings.

Co-manager Tom Hollies demanded a response from his table-topping side after the Badgers lost their unbeaten record following a reverse at the hands of Windsor & Bracknell Bears last time out.

And the players didn't let Hollies down, with a devastating display to take their AAA South league record to 11 wins and one loss approaching the halfway stage of the campaign.

"It was important to bounce back strongly," said Hollies.

"We definitely did that with a great display in which many players contributed across the board in the two games."

The first game was a classic low-scoring affair with both teams' pitchers on good form until the sixth

Baseball

inning. The Badgers were clinging to a 5-4 lead, but then exploded for five runs to close out a game in which the Kings' pitching had restricted the Badgers.

Alberto Loreto, however, made two hits, drove in two runs and scored two of his own during the game.

Loreto also made an amazing running catch at full stretch early in the game to boost the team defensively, before Badgers' Brad Freeman pitched a complete game to José Bobadilla to close out the contest and claim a 10-5 victory.

The Badgers signalled their intent during the second game by negotiating tricky conditions to chalk up a 13-4 success.

Freeman was three for four with four runs scored; Bobadilla was three

for five with four runs batted in; Dan Looney was two for three with three runs scored and two runs batted in; and Peter Pfennig was two for three, plus two walks, with two runs batted in.

Gian Jimenez also pitched a solid game to Jonathan Brownlee with his curve ball perplexing the Kings' hitters and Hollies added: "When Gian is locating his curve ball, it makes it difficult for the opposition to put good contact on the ball.

"Our pitching staff is one of the deepest in the league as we have five strong starters which will help us as the season progresses into August."

The Badgers are back in action when they face Windsor & Bracknell Bears in a double header at Failand on Sunday (12 noon).

For more information visit www.bristolbaseball.co.uk.