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Wenrich Shines in First Game Since Heart Attack

Florence catcher singles to the wall in his first at bat, finishes with two hits and a walk



Sauget, Ill. – This afternoon, Isaac Wenrich took the field for the first time since suffering a widowmaker heart attack on March 28.

“I’ve thought about this day since the heart attack, but I never knew whether I was going to get back on that field,” Wenrich said. “So to finally see my name on the lineup card and be able to make an impact on the team today, it’s something that you can’t really put into words.”

Wenrich marked the end of his two-month journey back to competitive baseball in style, singling to the right-center field wall in his first at bat. He finished 2-for-2 with a walk and a run scored as Florence defeated the Gateway Grizzlies 4-3.

When asked what he would be thinking about when he took the field, Wenrich jokingly replied “no passed balls and don’t strike out.

“Honestly, I’m going to take it with a grain of salt and have as much fun as I can,” he continued. “It’s like riding a bike now that I’m back. It’s going to be exciting and I’ll have some nerves, but it’s time to get back out and do what I have to do.”

As Wenrich’s on-field success continues, the catcher is bringing a new sense of perspective both on and off the diamond.

“Having that experience opened my eyes to what is really important,” Wenrich said. “Every day is a little easier to take in because it’s not so do-or-die. This summer, I’m just focusing on what I can do to be my best self on the field and off it, while helping the team win in any way I can.”

Today, Wenrich played his part in the Freedom’s fourth victory in five games, contributing the team’s first hit and run scored. As his journey to Florence’s lineup comes to a close, the Freedom’s push towards another postseason is just beginning.

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