

Alpine wins slugfest against Carlsbad, 11-9

Teams combine for five home runs in first pro baseball game in Del Rio in more than 50 years

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Local baseball fans were treated to their own version of home run derby Monday night at Roosevelt Park.

The Alpine Cowboys and Carlsbad Bats combined for five home runs including two in the 10th inning that propelled Alpine to an 11-9 win in the first professional baseball game played in Del Rio in more than 50 years.

A crowd of more than 360 people turned out for the game that featured teams from the Pecos League of Professional Baseball Clubs.

The night began on a historic note as Arturo Gonzalez, former owner of several professional baseball teams including the Del Rio Cowboys of the Longhorn League of the 1940s, threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Once the game got started, it didn't take long for the scoring to begin.

Alpine's Tyler Hicks led off with a single to left field, moved to third on a pair of wild pitches and then wowed the crowd when he broke for home plate and wound up safe amid a cloud of Roosevelt Park dirt to give the Cowboys a 1-0 lead.

Carlsbad answered in the bottom of the first with four runs of its own, punctuated by a solo home run by Stefones Stroop that put the Bats ahead, 4-1.

The lead didn't last long.

Alpine's Nathan Skeen cut the lead to 4-2 when he singled and eventually scored on a wild pitch.

The Cowboys then loaded the bases as Hicks reached on a fielder's choice, Jason Sim-



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Alpine Cowboys first baseman Nick Ochoa looks for a pitch to hit during the first inning of Monday's game between the Alpine Cowboys and Carlsbad Bats at Roosevelt Park. Ochoa, who has ties to Ciudad Acuña, Coah., Mexico, belted a grand slam in the second inning and helped Alpine beat Carlsbad, 11-9, in 10 innings.

one singled and Austin Newell was hit by a pitch. They didn't stay loaded long, though, as Nick Ochoa, representing Ciudad Acuña, Coah., Mexico, smashed a grand slam over the centerfield wall and gave Alpine a 6-4 lead.

Alpine pushed its lead to 7-4 after David Valesente turned a walk into a run thanks to a pair of Bats' errors and a wild pitch by Carlsbad's starter Joe Snider.

Carlsbad used the long ball in the bottom of the third to claw its way back into the game as Mike Dear clubbed a solo home run high into the trees past the

left field wall to make the score 7-5.

After wasting a bases loaded chance in the fourth inning, the Cowboys added to their lead in the fifth as Javier Arrieta drove in Newell with an RBI single to make it an 8-5 game.

That's how the game would stay until the bottom of the eighth inning when Dear drew a leadoff walk off relief pitcher Giorgio Fuda, moved to second on a wild pitch, stole third and scored on a groundout by Eddy George to cut the Cowboys' lead to 8-6.

While Carlsbad's pitching was

keeping its team in the game, Alpine's pitching couldn't maintain its slim lead.

Trailing by two in the bottom of the ninth, the Bats quickly loaded the bases on singles by Mike Goldy and Ryan Kaup and a walk by David Holcombe.

Reed Alfieri came on in relief of Fuda, but he walked Stroop to force in a run and cut the lead to 8-7.

After Alfieri struck out Dear for the first out, Ryan Kesecker singled to right and brought in Holcombe with the tying run.

Carlsbad had a chance to win with bases loaded and only one



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Carlsbad Bats' Stefones Stroop (38) is congratulated at home plate after he hit a solo home run in the bottom of the first inning Monday night at Roosevelt Park against the Alpine Cowboys. Alpine went on to win the game, 11-9, in 10 innings.

out, but Fieri got Brandon Powers to hit into a 6-4-3 double play and sent the game to extra innings.

In the top of the 10th, Alpine came out swinging.

Kyle Wells put the Cowboys back in front thanks to a two-run home run. The next batter, James Kono, followed suit with a solo blast over the left field wall that staked Alpine to an 11-8 lead.

Carlsbad did all they could to prolong the game in the bottom of the 10th.

George led off with an infield single. After a sacrifice bunt by Quincy Pitts moved George to second, and an error sent him to third, Goldy hit a ground ball to Valesente at third.

Valesente caught George leading off too far from third and soon George was in a rundown. He would eventually be tagged out for the second out, but Goldy never stopped running.

When Alpine tried to throw Goldy out at second, the ball skipped into the outfield and Goldy raced to third. As the Cowboys tried to field the ball, Goldy zipped around third and made a dash for home. The throw home was just late as Goldy leapt over the catcher and touched the plate to make it an 11-9 game.

After Holcombe walked, Kaup looked to keep Carlsbad's hopes alive but he hit a groundball that forced Holcombe out at second for the final out of the game.