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Sports

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The Chillicothe Mudcats are scrambling their way back towards the .500 mark, taking the first two games of a three-game series in Joplin, with strong pitching providing the difference in both games (Tuesday and Wednesday).

On Tuesday night, the 'Cats got 6 2/3 tough innings from Steve Adkins, who improved his record to 2-0, with Chase Anderson pitching the final 2 1/3 innings for the save, in a 2-1 win.

On Wednesday evening, the Mudcats starting pitcher Ryan Lavoie held Joplin scoreless for 6-plus innings, scattering eight hits in the process, in a 6-1 Chillicothe victory. Joplin's only run scored late on a bases loaded walk given up by Aaron Hyder.

The strong pitching for the Mudcats in Joplin stands in direct contrast to the June 7th through 9th series at Shaffer Park, where the Outlaws ravaged Chillicothe with 29 runs and 45 hits in taking the weekend series two games to one.

Chillicothe goes for the series sweep at Joplin tonight (Thursday night) at 7:05, before returning to Shaffer Park to take on Clarinda tomorrow (Friday) night in the Mudcats first home game in the past week.