

## 'Former LG' Kelly is Triple-A

David Buchanan (35, Cincinnati Reds), a foreign pitcher who played as the ace of the Samsung Lions for many years, returned to the Major League Baseball (MLB) for the first time in nine years.

Buchanan took the mound in the top of the fourth inning when his team was trailing 0-3 in the 2024 Major League regular season home game against the Milwaukee Brewers at Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati, Ohio on the 1st (Korea time).

Against the first batter, Reese Hoskins, Buchanan played outside and induced a fly to left field after three pitches. He allowed a walk to Garrett Mitchell after a full count, but ended the first inning easily by catching Joey Ortiz with a fly ball to center field and Bryce Turang with a fly to right field.

In the fifth inning, Buchanan had three outs and three outs thanks to stellar defense. After catching Jackson's mystery book with a fly to the right field, Buchanan was hit hard by William Contreras, the third baseman. However, "Monster shortstop" Elie de la Cruz caught the ball with a diving catch. Buchananan garnered Jake Bowers' swing and miss with a changeup to post his third out count.

Buchanan, who threw well, recorded his first run in the sixth inning. After giving up a hit to leadoff hitter Willie Adames, he was in danger of hitting second and third bases with no outs due to Blake Perkins' double. Hoskins was caught by a fly ball to the first base, but Mitchell's grounder to the shortstop scored a point. It was all the more regrettable because the batters scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Buchanan took the mound in the seventh inning as well, and Turang, the leadoff hitter, was grounded out. However, he was eventually replaced when Choo gave up a walk. Tony Santillan, who followed, gave up a walk and did not get a follow-up hit, and Buchanan's earned run did not increase.

During the three ½ innings, Buchanan threw 58 pitches, allowing two hits, two walks, and one strikeout. He threw cutters (34 percent) and changeups (26 percent), and fastballs reached the maximum speed of 93.3 miles (150.2 kilometers). He cooked batters with fastballs.

The game was Buchanan's first return to the Major League in about nine years. He made his big league debut with the Philadelphia Phillies in 2014, and showed good performance with 6-8 record and 3.75 ERA. However, he slowed down to 2-9 record and 6.99 ERA the following year, and was not able to see him in the Major League after the game against the Miami Marlins on Oct. 5 that year.

Buchanan, who spent 2016 only in the minor leagues, signed with the Samsung Lions ahead of the 2020 season after playing for the Yakult Swallows in the Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) for three years from 2017. With his outstanding skills and active personality, he positively influenced his team, especially with 16 wins in 2021, and at the same time set a new record for the most wins for a single season as a foreign pitcher. Thanks to this, his team, Samsung, experienced fall baseball for the first time in six years. FEALOLE TRALE Last year, he played 188 innings in 30 games, recording an ERA of 12 wins and eight losses with 2.54 ERA for the first time. However, he failed to narrow differences between Buchanan who demanded a multi-year contract and the reluctant club. Eventually, Buchanan signed a minor league contract with his former Philadelphia Phillies. Since then, he was traded to Cincinnati in late August.

As Andrew Abbott, Hunter Green, and Nick Rodolo have been added to the disabled list, Cincinnati now has a vacancy in its pitching staff. After all, Cincinnati called up Buchanan to the big league on Monday and made his debut immediately.

Meanwhile, the Cincinnati Reds announced on the same day that Casey Kelly (35), a former KBO league player, passed waivers and was assigned to Triple-A. After taking the mound in two big league games, he was assigned to the DFA on April 30, and is expected to spend the rest of the season in the Minor League.