

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Kirk's Final Frontier

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Timing was everything for Kirk Rueter through the season's first six weeks. No pitcher on the Senators' vaunted staff had matched his consistency. No starter in the Eastern League had a better earned-run average.

All of which made this start so, well, Rueteresque as the left-hander scattered nine hits and two walks over eight innings of an 8-1 victory here over the Binghamton Mets before a crowd of 2,173 at Municipal Stadium.

In running his record to 5-0, Rueter lowered his ERA to 1.36. Just for fun, he worked out of four jams, thanks to two double plays that he started and a season-high seven strikeouts. Five of those strikeouts came with runners in scoring position.

The Senators gave Rueter all the runs he needed, and more, with a four-run first inning off Pete Walker. In return, Rueter made sure the game ended in less than 2 hours and 30 minutes — once again guaranteeing his teammates an early night on the town, although Binghamton hardly was the garden spot of pro baseball.

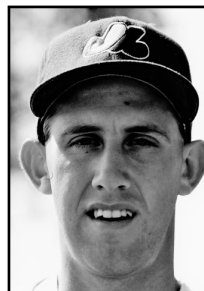
Of the 11 pitchers who started games for the Senators in 1993, no one came within 22 minutes of matching the 2:18 that Rueter averaged during his nine starts.

Turned out that this start was Rueter's last with the Senators.

His next came at Class AAA Ottawa with 336 starts to follow in the majors, where on occasion Rueter worked so fast the home plate umpire had to tell him to slow down with his warmup pitches so teams could finish their between-innings commercial breaks.

"There aren't too many guys who use that kind of brush to paint the plate," said manager Jim Tracy.

"And, this kid uses one of those brushes with the very thin bristles."



KIRK RUETER

EASTERN LEAGUE STANDINGS on May 25			
	Record	Pct.	GB
SENATORS	30 - 9	.769	—
Bowie	22 - 16	.579	7 1/2
Albany	21 - 16	.568	8
Canton	23 - 18	.561	8
Reading	19 - 20	.487	11
London	16 - 26	.381	15 1/2
Binghamton	14 - 26	.350	16 1/2
New Britain	13 - 27	.325	17 1/2