

## Rox Set Franchise Attendance Record, Take Both Games in Doubleheader

The Brockton Rox took the field in front of a roaring record crowd of 4,071 on Wednesday morning and came away with a clean sweep, winning both games of the doubleheader against the Down East Bird Dawgs.

Brockton claimed Game 1 behind a commanding performance from starter Joe Kemplage and an early offensive explosion.

After a quick first inning on the mound from Kemplage, the Rox bats got going immediately. **Jack-Thomas Wold** lifted an RBI single to center to score **Austin White**, who had led off with a walk. Bird Dawgs starter **Drew Durst** struggled with command throughout the morning, and the first inning was his wildest. **Hemmanuel Rosario** drew another walk to load the bases, and **Derek Bender** was hit by a pitch to bring in a run the hard way. **Tommy Kretzler** then continued his hot streak with a two-run double down the line, giving Brockton a 4-0 lead.

In the second, the Brockton defense stepped up to help out Kemplage. White ran down a sinking line drive and made a highlight-reel diving catch in center field. Not to be outdone, **Trey Ciulla-Hall**, playing third base, made a Superman-like extension to snag a line drive in foul territory, ending the inning.

The Down East offense finally broke through in the fourth inning. **Trotter Harlan** doubled to the left-center alley, concluding a nine-pitch at-bat to score **Emmanuel Tapia**. Kemplage then buckled down, escaping a first-and-third jam with no outs and surrendering only the one run.

The Rox responded quickly. In the bottom of the fourth, Wold stayed hot, launching a 400-foot two-run homer well over the right-field fence. He finished Game 1 with **three RBIs** and has now raised his OPS over .600 after a cold start to the season.

In the fifth, a ground ball off the bat of **J.R. DiSarcina** had the makings of a double play, but Bird Dawgs first baseman **Yassel Pino** couldn't scoop a tough throw from Harlan. Brockton's **Keegan Calero** followed with a single up the middle to drive in another run, extending the lead to **7-1**.

Kemplage exited after five full innings, allowing just one run on six hits with no walks, a stat that stood out for a Rox staff that has struggled with command this season. He picked up his second win of the year and improved to **2-1**.

**Trevor Anibal** and **Dylan Bedder** came out of the bullpen and finished the job, securing a 7-2 Game 1 victory for the Rox.

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## Game 2 – Bullpen Dominates, Bender Stays Hot

Despite a more subdued crowd for Game 2, **Derek Bender** wasted no time making an impact. His two-out, two-RBI double in the first gave Brockton an early lead. The ball left his bat at 107 MPH, and it wasn't the only rocket he hit across the two games. Bender has continued to surge at the plate after earning Player of the Week honors last week, bouncing back from a slow start to the season.

**Brendan Bell** opened the game for the Rox, striking out two in his lone inning of work. It became a true bullpen effort from there, and the group delivered in dominant fashion. **Dillon Ryan**, **Zach Eldrid**, **Chic DeGaetano**, **Trevor Nelson**, and **Mike McKenna** all made appearances over the seven-inning contest.

Together, they held the Bird Dawgs to just **four hits and zero runs**.

With a 2-0 lead in the top of the seventh, McKenna came on to close it out. He recorded his third save of the season by getting **Cole Hill** to ground out with the tying run on first base. McKenna has now solidified his role as Brockton's de facto closer.

The Rox will look to wrap up a series sweep when they take on Down East again Thursday night. First pitch is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.