

Windy City Takes Two Straight Over Brockton

BROCKTON, MA. – Michael Sandle delivered the go-ahead RBI single in the top of the ninth as Windy City defeated Brockton 6-5 on Saturday night at Campanelli Stadium.

“Real tough loss, obviously,” Brockton Rox skipper Jerod Edmondson said. “We need these games, so every time we lose, it’s going to be tough to come back from, but we’ve been pretty resilient all year, so I’m sure we’re going to bounce back tomorrow.”

Before the game, both teams held a moment of silence to honor Windy City Field Manager and MLB Legend Bobby Jenks, who recently passed away from stage four stomach cancer.

Brockton starting pitcher Pierce Williams took a no-decision as he pitched five innings, allowing five hits, three earned runs, while walking a batter and striking out four. Dillion Ryan recorded his first loss of the season as he dropped to 5-1 in the season.

Dante Maietta also took a no-decision for Windy City, pitching four innings, allowing five hits, two unearned runs, while walking a batter and striking out two. Caleb Riedel took the win, improving to 1-2 in the season. He pitched three shutout innings, allowing two hits, walking two, and striking out five.

In the second inning, Josh Gibson walked and advanced to second base on a wild pitch. With one out in the inning, Oscar Serratos brought him home with an RBI base hit. During a hit-and-run, Christian Kuzemka hit a fly ball to Keagan Calero for the second out, and Calero threw the ball to Zach Eldred at first to complete a double play.

Serratos led off the fourth inning with a double down the left field line. He stole third base and then scored on Kuzemka's RBI single, extending Windy City's lead to 2-0. The ThunderBolts added another run when Kotowski advanced to second on a throwing error by the third baseman, Trey Ciullia-Hall. The ball went into the stands, allowing Kotowski to advance, and Kuzemka scored.

Brockton had the bases loaded with nobody out in the bottom of the fifth when Austin White walked in to force in a run, cutting the deficit to two runs. Calero then grounded out to Bryce Hellgeth for the first out of the inning. Hemmanuel Rosario was intentionally walked to reload the bases. A few batters later, Evan Giordano hit an infield single to shortstop James Dunlap, allowing JR DiSarcina to score, while White was thrown out at home for the third out of the inning.

“We’ve been pretty good at doing that all year,” Edmondson said. “When we’re behind, we just keep grinding, get the guys on, set the table, and come through, and tonight just wasn’t enough.”

DiSarcina walked, and both White and Calero laid down beautiful bunts to load the bases in the bottom of the seventh inning with no outs. Rosario then hit a line drive that struck Riedel, allowing two runs to score. However, Rosario was thrown out at second base as he attempted to be aggressive on the basepaths and take an extra base.

James Dunlap hit a two-run home run in the top of the eighth, tying the game at five runs each. This was his first home run of the season, traveling 357 feet at an impressive speed off the bat.

Garrett Broussard followed with a base hit, and Josh Gibson advanced Broussard to second with a sacrifice bunt, moving him into scoring position. Sandel then delivered an RBI single, giving the ThunderBolts a 6-5 lead.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, the Rox had two runners on with two outs when Giordano struck out swinging to end the game.

Brockton will look to bounce back tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 p.m. as the Rox conclude their six-game homestand at Campanelli Stadium.