

Rox Hold Off Titans to Win Series

Brockton Rox closer Trevor Anibal shut down a late surge by the Ottawa Titans as the Rox held on for a 7-6 victory, securing the series win on Thursday afternoon.

With the tying run on third base in the bottom of the ninth, Anibal got Jackie Urbaez to pop out to second base, sealing the win—and the series—for Brockton.

The save was Anibal's first of the season and came at a critical moment for the Rox, who have now won three of their last five games and sit just four games below .500.

Joe Kemplage got the start for Brockton and gave the team exactly what it needed. Though he allowed nine hits over five innings, Kemplage excelled at damage control, limiting Ottawa to just three runs while striking out seven. He also kept his walk total in check—an issue for Brockton this season—issuing only three free passes.

Evan Grills took the loss for Ottawa, surrendering four runs on 10 hits over 5.2 innings of work. Brockton totaled 15 hits in the win, narrowly outpacing Ottawa, who collected 14 in what turned into an offensive shootout.

The turning point came in the sixth inning. With Brockton trailing 3-2, shortstop J.R. DiSarcina and first baseman Jack-Thomas Wold ripped back-to-back RBI singles to give the Rox a lead they would not relinquish.

Brockton added two more runs in the seventh, courtesy of sacrifice flies from Tommy Kretzler and Trey Ciulla-Hall, pushing the lead to 6-3. They struck again in the eighth, when Evan Giordano singled home DiSarcina. Giordano, one of the hottest hitters in the league, finished with two hits, including a solo home run in the fifth.

But the Titans refused to go quietly. In the eighth, Jeremy Piatkiewicz continued his clutch hitting, singling home a run. Michael Mugan then brought in Piatkiewicz with an RBI knock to make it 7-5.

Ottawa inched even closer in the ninth, capitalizing on a fielding error by Rox second baseman Brett Young, who had just entered the game for Keegan Calero. Taylor Wright raced home, cutting the deficit to one.

With the tying run just 90 feet away, Anibal buckled down and retired Urbaez to stifle Ottawa's comeback and lock up the win.

The Rox now enter the back half of their six-game road trip, beginning Friday night against the New Jersey Jackals. First pitch is scheduled for 6:35 p.m.