

Brockton Picks Up Their First Walk-Off Win of the Season

BROCKTON, MA. – The Brockton Rox walked it off for the first time in the 2025 season this afternoon when designated hitter Derek Bender hit a sacrifice fly to give Brockton a 3-2 victory over Tri-City in the bottom of the 9th. The Rox improved to 3-7 in the season, while the ValleyCats dropped to 6-3.

Brockton Rox's starting pitcher, Thomas Nelson, recorded a no-decision despite putting together a solid outing. Nelson threw for five innings, allowing one earned run on three hits, four walks, and striking out four. Ben Seiler earned the win in relief, going 2.1 innings with one earned run.

When asked about his performance, Nelson said his fastball was working well, but was quick to credit his teammates. "The defense behind me, they made some great plays to get me out of some jams I put myself into."

Tri-City starting pitcher Mikell Manzano also recorded a no-decision despite a great performance, throwing six innings, allowing six hits, two runs (one earned), two walks, and two strikeouts. Lie Fuenmayor took the loss in relief, his first of the year.

Left fielder John McHenry walked to lead off the second, and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Shortstop Santino Rosso flew out to center fielder Austin White for the second out of the inning, when chaos ensued. McHenry tagged up from second, and headed for third as White was making the catch. The throw into third missed the mark, sailing to the fences behind third base. McHenry took the chance to sprint home, where he scored uncontested. Then, after a long pause, the Rox opted to appeal, and step on second base, where McHenry was called out. Apparently, his foot had left the bag too early, he was out at second, and the inning was over.

It was a pitching duel through the first four innings at Campanelli Stadium, as Nelson only gave up one hit while Manzano allowed only three hits, both going scoreless through four. However, the ValleyCats struck first in the fifth when right fielder Dylan Broderick singled to right field, driving in Santino Rosso and giving Tri-City a 1-0 lead.

However, Brockton quickly responded in the bottom half of the same inning, as they have done time and time again in the last few games. Manzano recorded the first two outs before Austin White singled, then stole second base. First baseman Jack-Thomas Wold then hit an RBI single to tie the game at one apiece.

Brockton continued their push into the bottom of the sixth when Austin White walked with the bases loaded, forcing home a run and putting Brockton ahead 2-1.

Brockton seemed to be on their way to victory in the ninth inning when the ValleyCats' first two batters reached base and advanced to scoring position. With one out, pinch hitter Cam Jones hit a sacrifice fly to White in center field, tying the score at 2-2. Luckily, reliever Ben Seiler was able to get out of it without any more damage.

In the bottom half of the ninth, JR DiSarcina led off with a single, and Austin White was hit by a pitch. After a balk from Liu Fuenmayor, Tri-City opted to intentionally walk Keagan Calero, loading the bases and activating the double play. They recorded a strikeout on JT Wold, but Derek Bender was able to deliver in the clutch for Brockton. Bender hit a fly ball out to center field, allowing DiSarcina to tag up, and secure the win with a walk-off sacrifice fly, giving the Rox a 3-2 victory.

Brockton will look to continue its winning ways tomorrow night in the final game of the three-game series against the Tri-City ValleyCats. The game is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at Campanelli Stadium.