

Rox Starting Pitching Sputters as Les Aigles Take Series

Starting pitching was once again a stumbling block for the Brockton Rox, who fell 11–4 to the Trois-Rivières Aigles on Thursday evening at Campanelli Stadium, dropping the three game series.

Jared Henry got the nod for Brockton, making his first home start of the season. He entered with a 3–3 record, with all three victories coming in games he had started. Trois-Rivières countered with the savvy Mike Hansell, who began the night with a dominant 1.17 ERA through 30 innings—among the best in the Frontier League.

Both pitchers looked sharp early, exchanging scoreless frames to open the game, each flashing effective arsenals.

The Aigles offense broke through in the second. David Vinsky nearly homered, sending a shot off the top of the right-field wall for a double. He crossed the plate on a groundout by James Smibert. With Omar Meregildo on first, Trois-Rivières executed a hit-and-run. Rox shortstop JR DiSarcina pivoted away from second base and made a superb diving stop, but couldn't complete the double play. Two batters later, Joshua Lopez dropped an RBI single into left-center to extend the Aigles' lead to 2–0.

Brockton responded in the bottom half as Tommy Kretzler launched a solo shot—his sixth of the season—just inside the left-field foul pole.

One batter later, a scary play occurred when Zach Eldred collided with Aigles first baseman Brandon Hylton as Hylton attempted to snare an errant throw. Both players were shaken up but stayed in the game.

Les Aigles continued to press in the third. With two outs, Hylton singled, and birthday boy Juan Carlos Negret, crushed a two-run homer to left-center to make it 4–1.

The visitors weren't done. In the fourth, Smibert added a two-run blast of his own, scoring Meregildo, who had been hit by a pitch. Later in the inning, Kyle Farmer brought in another run with a sacrifice fly. In the blink of an eye, Trois-Rivières had opened up a 7–1 advantage.

Kretzler provided more production for the Rox in the bottom of the fourth, lifting a sac fly to bring home Evan Giordano and cut the deficit to five.

Henry settled in with a clean fifth and nearly escaped the sixth without damage. But with two outs and John Montes on first, Kyle Farmer lifted a high fly to shallow left-center. Austin White, Kretzler, and DiSarcina converged—only for the ball to disappear in the twilight and drop between them, scoring Montes.

Henry exited after 5.2 innings, having allowed nine runs—his roughest outing of the season—while striking out five. Matt Maloney replaced Henry and the defense immediately faced more issues with the lighting, as a routine fly dropped into left, plating Farmer.

Hansell departed after seven strong innings of two-run ball coupled with 4 punchouts. With Hansell out of the game, the Rox were able to build some offense. Hemmanuel Rosario ripped a double to the left-center alley, scoring Keegan Calero. Kretzler then knocked in Rosario with a soft flare to right field that fell between two Aigles fielders—his third RBI of the night.

However, Trois-Rivières erased those tallies in the top of the ninth with a pair of insurance runs that pushed the score to 11–4 and sealed the game and series.

Fortunately for the Rox, there won't be much time to reflect. They return to action Friday night against Lake Erie. First pitch from Campanelli Stadium is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. EST.