

Game Recap | July 14, 2019

Hooks Hang On to Snap Long Boarders' 10-game Winning Streak

Jonathan Kenney delivers five shutout innings in relief against the Long Boarders.

Anthony Quach – Communications Manager

SAN MARCOS – In the last their last 10 games, the Hooks endured a rough stretch 2-8. Their opponents, the Long Boarders, came into Saturday with a 10-game winning streak on the line. Something had to give, and after nine competitive innings, the Hooks came out on top, 8-7.

Out of the Long Boarders' six losses, the Hooks are responsible for four of them. Today's win not only ended their opponents' winning streak, it shows that the Hooks can "hang" with any team in the SDL, especially with the first-place Long Boarders.

"Feels good to be on top of those one-run games. We play our better baseball [against the Long Boarders] and it's getting us back on track," said Hooks' assistant coach Nate Russell. "We're playing good baseball, clean baseball, pitchers are doing their job and everyone's executing where they need to."

It was a rough outing for both starting pitchers today, Long Boarders' Takashi Umino and Hooks' Graham Cartwright. Umino allowed eight runs (seven earned) on eight hits, two walks while Cartwright allowed seven runs in four innings on 11 hits and two walks.

Both teams' bullpen threw up zeros across the board the rest of the way. The Long Boarders' combination of Christian LaPierre, Bailin Markridge, Brandon Scott and Dylan Vaugh combined for four shutout innings.

But the Hooks only needed one pitcher out of the pen today and it was Jonathan Kenney. Kenney earned the win after he pitched five shutout innings in relief against the Long Boarders and allowed four hits, no walks and struck out three.

"I used my fastball and my curveball predominately, but I was able to get out of it with the command of my fastball," said Kenney. "I loved [Michael Campagna's] pitch calling, his pitch calling I thought agrees a lot with mine."

Campagna got the Hooks their first run in the first with an RBI single, and the Hooks continued to put pressure on Umino and attacked him for a six-run second.

Down 7-0, the Long Boarders refused to back down and cut their deficit to 7-3 behind RBIs from Harrison Boudreaux and Mcklane Elgin.

The Hooks got a run back in the third, but the Long Boarders continue to put pressure on Cartwright, as they got four more runs in the next three innings. But that was all they would get as Kenney shut them down the rest of the way.

"[Kenney] competed out there today. His fastball was good, his curveball was getting in the strike zone," said Campagna. "He had a lot of low-pitch innings today, which was also good because it keeps him in the game longer."



Hooks' Jonathan Kenney was lights-out in today's 8-7 victory over the Long Boarders. Kenney silenced the Long Boarders' bats for the final five innings to pick up the win. (Kevin Dahlgren/San Diego League)



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After today's game, the Hooks maintain their third-place spot with an 11-15 record, while the first-place Long Boarders fall to 20-6.

With just a few weeks remaining in the SDL season, the Hooks look to climb back into the standings and prepare themselves for the playoffs. "It's great to get momentum going into playoffs and in the second half of the season," said Campagna. "Overall we know that we can compete with anybody and it gives us confidence going into playoffs."

Both teams will be back in action on Tuesday, July 16th, when the Long Boarders take on the Warriors at 10:05 A.M and the Hooks battle the Jets at 1:35 P.M.