

Game Recap | July 23, 2019

Warriors Triumph Over Hooks 10-7

Anthony Quach – Communications Manager

SAN MARCOS – With first-place secured, the race for higher playoff seeding continued between the Hooks and Warriors. After the Jets' loss to the Long Borders earlier today, the pressure was on both teams to come out with a win today. But it was the Warriors who emerged victorious, 10-7 but not before the Hooks rallied back for a dramatic ninth inning.

Warriors' pitcher, Sammy Sanchez who threw an inning of relief with two strikeouts, was thankful that his team got the win. "It obviously got tight there at the end, a little too tight," said Sanchez. "But I'm thankful that the boys rose to the occasion and we're able to come through, execute their pitches and get those last outs."



Jace Johns' first start of the season yields a victory after he delivered five innings, and allowed two runs on two hits, two walks with two strikeouts. (Kevin Dahlgren/San Diego League).

Jace Johns, who is primarily used as a reliever, got the start today for the Warriors and pitched five innings and allowed two runs on two hits, two walks and struck out two to earn the win. "I just wanted to make sure I got my job done," said Johns. "My fastball was working today [and] I messed with a bunch of other pitches, knuckleball, slider."

According to Warriors' assistant coach, Eric Poirier, the decision behind Johns' start today was due to a "gut feeling" from the head coach Chris Brown. "[Jace] did a fabulous job, it's really important for him to hit spots and have them get early outs" said Coach Poirier. "For a kid that's been coming off the bench, he's thrown a lot of innings, and a lot of games. To actually get the start and get the [win] it was a big day for him and a big day for the team."

Trailing 2-1 in the third, the Warriors went on to score seven unanswered runs to take 8-2 lead.

The Hooks finally scored their third run in the seventh off Nathan Campos' RBI double and the two teams continued to traded runs until the ninth.

Entering the ninth, the Warriors held a 10-4 lead, but the Hooks did not go down without a fight. Trent Gutowski started the inning for the Warriors but was relieved by Carlos Oquita after loading the bases with no outs. The Hooks tacked on three runs to cut the deficit to 10-7 still had the bases loaded with two outs and the winning run at the plate. Oquita managed to induce a flyout and retired Nathan Gelbrich to record the save and secure the win for his team.

After today's game, the fourth-place Warriors improve to 12-19, while the Hooks drop to 13-17-1.

"This series is just as important as the one before and the one before. It's not a long season, it's not 162 games or 50 [games]," said Sanchez. "Every game matters. We need to come out here and try to win every opportunity we get."

With only four regular season games left, the fight for a better playoff seed continues and it starts with the Warriors and Hooks on Friday, July 26th at 10:05 A.M at the CSUSM Baseball Field.

"Every series is big," said Coach Poirier. "It's all going to go down to the very end. On any day, anybody can win, it's all going to be who pitches and plays defense and get the hits when they matter."