

Game Recap | July 13, 2019

Jets Complete 8th Inning Comeback Behind Smith/Smits Combo

Ross Smith gets it done at the plate and on the mound for the Jets in Saturday's match-up.

Anthony Quach – Communications Manager

SAN MARCOS – Trailing 8-7 in the eighth, the Jets needed a boost and they got it with the help of Ross Smith and Zach Smits. The two accounted for the Jets' two runs in the eighth and led them to a 9-8 victory over the Hooks in the first game of a tripleheader at CSUSM Baseball Field on July 13th.



Zach Smits' go-ahead sacrifice-fly in the eighth was the difference in the Jets' 9-8 victory over the Hooks. (Kevin Dahlgren/San Diego League).

Smith who usually "opens" the game for the Jets, found himself in the closer role today as he retired the side in order to record his first career save. Smith did not think he would be pitching today until the eighth, when his head coach, Wayne Franklin told him to warm up.

"I knew I was going out there to throw fastballs so I was just trying to pound the zone," said Smith. "[Coach Wayne] told me when we come back on, go get loose and my arm was feeling good today anyways."

The Hooks gave the start to their lefty, Jansen Lublin while Jonah Sebring started for the Jets.

Sebring allowed three runs on five hits, two walks and struck out four in three-and-one-third innings. The Hooks' Lublin lasted three-and-two-thirds innings and allowed four runs on three hits, four walks and struck out six.

Michael Campagna accounted for the Hooks' first two runs after he picked up an RBI double and scored on an error in the first.

The Jets responded back with four runs off Lublin in the second. An RBI single by Brett Spackeen and a bases-loaded walk by Dylan Vail tied the game for the Jets. Vito Fowler made his debut for the Jets and gave his team the lead after he scored on a wild pitch and Ryan Cho gave the Jets the fourth run on an RBI groundout.

Lublin left the game with two outs in the fourth due to an ankle injury and was replaced by Bobby Barrett who gave up a run that extended the Jets' lead to 5-2.

Their lead did not last long as the Hooks tied it behind Jacob Freedman's two-run single and Ian Grylls scored on a wild pitch.

Niko Diaz relieved Sebring back in the fourth and ran into trouble when he loaded the bases in the fifth – Hooks' Grylls broke the 5-5 with a two-run single off Diaz.

Hooks lead 8-7 in the eighth, the Jets began gaining momentum at this point in the contest. After back-to-back singles from Cho and Sam Dinerman, Smith stepped up the plate and delivered the game-tying RBI single and in the next at-bat, Smits gave his team a 9-8 lead on a sacrifice fly that scored Dinerman.



“I wanted to move the runner from first to second and obviously scoring the other run and [Zach] did it and did a great job,” said Coach Franklin. “When a kid responds to what a coach is asking that specifically, you can never ask for anything better as a coach.”

Smith pitched a 1-2-3 ninth inning to record the save and lock up the win for the Jets. The decision to have Smith close was “a complete feel”, according to Coach Franklin.

“I wanted to have Ross in there at the right time and he throws pretty hard, so does Sebring,” said Coach Franklin. “I didn’t want to have them back-to-back so when I brought in Diaz, I thought that was the perfect compliment to Diaz and it worked out pretty well.”

After today’s game, the Jets maintain their second-place spot with 14-11 record and they are currently on a three-game winning streak, while the Hooks remain in third with a 10-15 record.

“I think the energy from the end of the game today, we got to have it at the beginning of the game tomorrow [and] just keep the mojo rolling,” said Ross Smith.

The Jets will finish off their series with the Warriors on Sun, July 14th at 10:05 A.M, while the Hooks wrap up their series against the Long Borders later day that at 1:35 P.M.