

BJ's Settle for Split After Head Scratching Game One Loss

With one out, the bases empty, and a 7-1 lead in the seventh inning, all seemed right in the BJ's universe. Liberal was poised to win for the 15th time in 17 games and struggling Dodge City, seemed largely disinterested trailing 7-0 most of the way in game one of a double header on the road in 100 degree heat. But the A's shocked the BJ's and their fans scoring six in the seventh to tie it and five in the eighth to win it. The Bee Jays won game two 8-6 but it seemed like an afterthought after the way game one ended.

In game one, College of Sequoias right hander Mike McBride was dominant through six innings allowing one run on four hits. But the Bee Jays lifted McBride after six innings for center fielder Mark Gomez who had thrown only three innings this seasons. He retired the first man but then allowed a walk and and five straight hits. By the time Nick Youpel entered the game, it was 7-6. Youpel surrendered the game tying hit as Brock Green drove home the tying run. Richard Bohlken doubled with two outs in the bottom of the inning, but the BJ's couldn't deliver the win in the seventh. Christian Kowalchuk entered the game in the eighth and allowed four runs in a third of an inning.

Early on, it looked like a cake walk for the BJ's. They scored four in the second when Sam Konhoff doubled home two and David Masters delivered a sac fly and Kelby Tomlinson drove home a run with a single. Liberal added a run in the third when Richard Bohlken doubled home a run. Liberal added a run in the fourth when Kelby Tomlinson scored on a wild pitch to make it 6-0. Liberal led 7-0 when Konhoff singled home Mark Gomez who led off the innings with a double. Dodge scored a run in the sixth to make it 7-1. Dodge City's ensuing 11 runs during the next two innings sunk the BJ's.

Liberal rallied to win game two 8-6. Mark Gomez crushed a three run homer over the right field wall with two outs in the fourth to make it 8-6. The Jays scored five runs during that decisive inning. Travis Parker worked two scoreless innings and Tomas Cruz pitched a scoreless seventh for his second save.

Buoyed by the improbable game one win, the last place A's scored two in the first to take the lead. Liberal struck for three in the first which included a line drive homer over the right field wall by Aaron Mees for his third round tripper of the season. Will Alvis and Richard Bohlken added two out RBI singles to make it 3-2 after one. The A's chased BJ starter Austin Robson with one out in the third and scored four runs to make it 6-3. In the bottom of the fourth, Tomlinson drove home a run with a single and Borden doubled home a run to make it 6-5 before Gomez's towering homer to right in the fourth.

Liberal has won five of six over Dodge. The Bee Jays are 24-9 overall and 16-9 in the Jayhawk. The A's are 13-22 overall and 7-17 in the Jayhawk. The same two teams hook up Sunday night at 7 p.m. at Dodge City's Cavalier Field. The game will air on Talkradio 1270 and kscbnews.net.