

Seoul outlasts Los Mochis in nine inning battle

Game #8: Seoul, Korea 5 Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico 3



Asia-Pacific Zone Champion Seoul, Korea pitched well and hit in timely situations to knock off Mexico Zone Champion Los Mochis, Sinaloa 5-3 in nine innings in Game #8 of the Colt World Series from Lafayette, Indiana.

Seoul starter Lee Jong Min and Los Mochis starter Rigoberto Borbolla both had strong outings and both offenses had limited opportunities through the first four innings.

Seoul finally found some offense in the top of the fifth when Lee Gyu Min was hit by a pitch and advanced to second on a balk by Borbolla. No Jee Woo followed that up with a single to center and Min scored from second to give Korea the 1-0 lead.

Los Mochis responded in the bottom half of the frame, when Rivera reached second on a throwing error by the third baseman Kim Han Byul. Angel Lugo roped a double deep to left and Rivera came around to score, tying the game at one. Brayan Guerrero followed with a single to center to score Lugo, and Mexico took a 2-1 lead at the end of the fifth.

Mexico was able to add to its lead in the bottom of the sixth, when Vicente Valenzuela reached base on an error and moved to second when the throw to first was wild. After Alfredo Cervantes grounded out, Juan Lopez smacked a double to deep right center field and Valenzuela scored from second to stretch Mexico's lead to 3-1.

With their backs against the wall, the Asia-Pacific Zone Champions needed two runs to stay alive and force Mexico to come to the plate in the bottom of the seventh. Kim Tae Ho led off with an infield single and came all the way around to score, when Mexico third baseman Jaime Sanudo fielded Lee Gyu Min's grounder, but threw it away, and catcher Brayan Guerrero committed another throwing error, as he tried to throw out Min at second, closing the gap to 3-2. Min reached third on a wild pitch and crossed the plate on No Jee Woo's single to left, tying the game at three.

Seoul pitcher Lee Gyu Min shut down Los Mochis in the bottom of the seventh to send the game to extras and give Korea another shot at the plate. After a quiet eighth inning, Korea found some offense in the top of the ninth, as Jeon Jin Woo was hit by a pitch to start the inning and moved to second when Kim Tae Ho grounded out to second. Lee Gyu Min reached on an error by the third baseman Jaime Sanudo, giving Korea runners at the corners with only one out.

After Min stole second, No Jee Woo was intentionally walked, loading the bases for Korea. Jang Ye Jun followed with a grounder to third, but the ball was thrown away and two runs scored, giving Korea a 5-3 lead. Mexico pitcher Rosario Melecio retired the next two batters and Mexico headed to the bottom of the ninth needing two runs to keep their hopes alive.

Lee Gyu Min made things interesting when he walked the first batter, but he then struck out the next three hitters with a devastating combination of a solid fastball and a knee-buckling curveball. His solid work nailed down the 5-3 win for Korea, who are now 2-0 in the Colt World Series.

Seoul will take on European Zone Champion the Netherlands tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in a winner's bracket Game #12. After finishing its game into the late hours of Saturday, Los Mochis will have a quick turnaround time before game time, as it plays Lafayette (All-Stars), Indiana in an elimination game Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Continue to follow all of the action on PONY.org and ColtWorldSeries.com.