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Valdosta State Sweeps Sailfish

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LANTANA, Fla.- After a dominating 11-5 win on Friday night to open their weekend series versus Valdosta State University at the Santaluces Complex, the Palm Beach Atlantic University baseball team came back on Saturday hoping for another pair of key regional wins. With the Fish leading 6-3 into the seventh inning of game one it appeared they would be on their way to at minimum a series win. That all changed however when VSU scored 11 runs in the final three innings to earn a 14-8 win in game one while jumping out early on the Fish in game two for a 7-3 win and series victory.

Palm Beach Atlantic drops to 7-5 on the season while Valdosta State improves to 7-6 with the two-game sweep on Saturday.

Game One

Sailfish junior starter Nic Kovacs did his part to help position himself for his third victory of the season. He would toss the first six innings while allowing only three runs. Things changed however in the top of the seventh as Kovacs was able to retire one batter before the Blazers would load the bases.

Sailfish head coach Kent Bottenfield would opt to make a move to his bullpen and call on left-hander Alejandro De Moya.

Unfortunately for the Fish, De Moya would be greeted by a two-run double from Ryan Noelte followed by a two-run double by Christian Glisson as VSU quickly pushed ahead

7-6.

After the Sailfish tied the game back up at 7-7 behind a RBI single from Justin Sizemore in the bottom of the seventh, the Fish would once again see their bullpen struggle as a pair of PBA arms would allow five runs to come home to score as VSU opened up a 12-7 lead.

Noelte produced a two-run single while Marc Overstreet added a long solo homerun in the inning.

Valdosta added on two more insurance runs in the top of the ninth inning to earn the 14-8 win.

Travis Murray continued his great work with the bat from game one of the series with a 3-for-3 showing in Saturday's opener as he scored three runs out of the cleanup spot. Sizemore also continued his torrid hitting with a 3-for-5 showing while Brooks Fleming posted three singles with a run driven home.

Valdosta connected for a total of four solo homeruns in the game by Overstreet, Glisson, Bryant Hayman and Chaz Bagwell.

Game Two

Perhaps riding the momentum of their big comeback in the opener, the Blazers jumped all over Sailfish starter Kenny Frosch (0-1) in the first inning as the PBA left-hander allowed a walk, hit-by-pitch and then a long 3-run homer by Glisson as the Blazers led 3-0 after three batters.

A single run in the second inning added on to the lead for VSU before an inside-the-park homer by Perkowski cut into the lead at 4-1 after three innings.

Valdosta added three more runs in the fifth as Noelte smashed a two-run shot while Overstreet scored later in the frame on a pickoff play.

PBA scored twice in the sixth inning on a 2-run single by senior Matt Civetti but the Fish would leave the bases-loaded as pinch-hitter Nick Natale was retired on a strikeout to end the threat. VSU starter Jarod Carlton (2-0) went the distance for VSU as he scattered eight hits while allowing three runs while striking out nine batters and walking four.

Peter Graffeo and Robbie Pettet followed Frosch out of the bullpen for PBA with Pettet

tossing two scoreless frames with three strikeouts.

PBA produced eight hits in the game with two each by Perkowski and Luis Mejia while freshman catcher Christian Correa finished 2-for-2 with a double, single and walk in his first collegiate start. The Sailfish will have the early portion of their spring break off from game action and will return next weekend.

Click here for the game's full box score.

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