

2014 American League Wild Card Series, Arsenal vs Hotlanta

The Arsenal Gunners and Hotlanta Possums fired up the American League playoffs Friday night with an exciting wild card series. The games were played FTF on Dean's laptop at a neutral site, Harp's Irish Pub in Roswell, GA. It was battle of Guinness vs. Stella.

G#1 Miller vs. Miley

Gunners..... 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 - 2 9 0

Possums..... 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 - 3 8 0

WP: Paxton Save: Kimbrel LP: Miller

AG HR: Rasmus HP HR: Duda, Jackson

WEB GEMS- Bot 1st: Justin Maxwell robbed Michael Cuddyer of a Homerun!

Hotlanta took the early lead in the 2nd inning. Fielder led off with a double and scored 2 outs later when Jackson doubled. The Possums added a run in the 3rd on a 2 out solo HR by Duda. The Gunners scored their first run in the 4th when Johnson led off with a double, advanced to 3rd on a WP, and scored on a Valencia single. The Gunners tied the game in the 7th on a 2 out pinch hit HR by Rasmus off of Wilton Lopez. Lopez then gave up a double to Carpenter. Paxton replaced Lopez to face Chris Johnson. Paxton came through and K'd Johnson to end the inning. Hotlanta scored what proved to be the winning run in the bottom of the 7th on a 1 out HR by Austin Jackson. The Gunners rallied in the 8th but fell short. After 2 outs Arsenal mustered two singles and a walk to load the bases. This chased Jansen from the mound. Kimbrel came on and got Hechavarria to ground out to end the threat. Kimbrel then set down the Gunners in the 9th in order to record the save.

Shelby Miller took a tough loss pitching a complete game scattering 8 hits and no walks. Miley went 5 IP yielding 1 run on 5 hits and 3 walks. Five Possum relievers combined for 1 run on 4 hits and 1 walk. Paxton picked up the win on 2/3's IP setting down both batters. Austin Jackson had 2 hits and 2 RBI for the Possums. Harper and Johnson each had 2 hits for the Gunners. Arsenal left 10 men on base and hit into 2 DP's.

G#2 Alvarez vs. Fister

Gunners..... 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 1 9 0

Possums..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 5 0

WP: Alvarez Save: Vincent LP: Fister

AG HR: none HP HR: none

In a great pitcher's duel Alvarez and 5 Gunner relievers combined for a shutout. Gunner pitchers yielded just 5 hits and 1 walk. Arsenal got the only run they needed in the 3rd. Pearce led off with a single. Harper followed with another single to put runners on 1st & 3rd. Stanton then hit into a DP to score the only run of the game. Hotlanta had a few scoring chances but could not push in a run. Beckham led off the bottom 1st with a double but never left 2nd base. In the bottom 4th after 2 were out, a walk and a single put runners on 1st & 3rd for the Possums, but Pena grounded out to end the

threat. In the 7th Hotlanta had a great opportunity to tie the game. With 1 out Beltre singled. Pena popped out for 2 outs. Jackson then ripped a double to center. Belter tried to score but was thrown out at the plate on a 1-15 chance by Harper. In the 8th Ross singled with 2 outs and advanced to 2nd on a PB. But Duda popped out to end the inning.

On the other end of things the Gunners had several opportunities to blow the game open, but ended up with 7 LOB and hit into 4 DP's. Fister pitched a complete game for Hotlanta allowing 1 run on 9 hits and 2 walks. Harper was the star of the game for Arsenal rapping out 3 hits and making a big defensive play. Belter had 2 hits for Hotlanta.

G#3 Rusin vs. Wood

Possums..... 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 3 0 - 4 6 0

Gunners..... 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 1 5 1

WP: Rusin Save: Kimbrel LP: Wood

AG HR: none HP HR: Fieder, Mercer

It was tight game for 7 innings with the scored knotted at 1-1 going into the 8th. Arsenal scored their only run in the 1st when with 1 out Carpenter walked and Johnson singled him to 3rd. Carpenter scored on a groundout by Stanton. Hotlanta tied the game in the 6th on a lead off HR by Fielder. The Possums broke the game open in the 8th scoring 3 runs. With 1 out Mercer hit a solo HR. That was followed by a Beltre single and a RBI double by Gordon. Gordon advanced to 3rd on the throw to the plate on Beltre. He then scored on a SAF by Cuddyer. In the bottom 8th Johnson led off with a double but he was last Gunner base runner for the game.

Wood took the loss for Arsenal going 7.1 IP, allowing 4 runs on 5 hits and 4 walks. Rusin was the winning pitcher going 7 IP with 1 run, 4 hits, and 4 walks. Jansen and Kimbrel shut the door on the Gunners combining for 2 IP, 1 hit and 0 walks. The Gunners had an opportunity in the 6th when the first 2 base runners reached on walks but were left stranded. Johnson had 2 hits for the Gunners. Six different batters had 1 hit each for the Possums.

G#4 Miley vs. Chatwood

Possums..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 2 - 4 8 1

Gunners..... 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 - 2 5 1

WP: Kimbrel Save: Jansen LP: Webb

AG HR: Maxwell HP HR: Duda, Cuddyer

Game #4 was an exciting extra inning affair. Arsenal got the scoring started in the bottom of the 1st when Maxwell led off with a HR. The score stayed 1-0 through 7 innings. Hotlanta loaded the bases with 0 outs in the 6th but could not score. A K and DP ended the threat. The Possums tied the game in the 8th when Cuddyer rapped a 2 out HR. The Possums temporarily took the lead in the 10th. Jackson and Gordon walked to start the inning and were sacrificed to 2nd & 3rd by Beckham. Duda was HBP to load the bases. Cuddyer then hit a SAF to put the Possums up 2-1. But the Gunners fought back in the bottom of the 10th. Kimbrel came in to close the game for the Possums. Harper started things off by reachig on a 2 base error by Beckham. This elicited an obscene gesture by the Possum manager

towards Beckham. Rasmus then hit a double to tie the game. Hechavarria was K's by Kimbrel for out #1. Barton flew out for out #2. Arsenal got aggressive and Rasmus tried to tag to go to 3rd but was thrown out to end the inning. Hotlanta won the game in the 12th. With 1 out Gordon singled. Beckham flew out for 2 outs. Duda then knocked a 2 run HR for the lead. Arsenal had one more chance in the 12th. With 1 out Harper doubled which tired Kimbrel. Jansen then came on and got Rasmus to groundout and Hechavarria to pop out to end the game.

Miley went 5 IP allowing 1 run on 3 hits and 4 walks for Hotlanta. The Possum bullpen combined for 7 IP allowing 1 run on 2 hits and 1 walk. Chatwood went 5 IP allowing 0 runs on 3 hits and 2 walks for the Gunners. The Arsenal bullpen combined for 7 IP, 4 runs, 5 hits, and 4 walks. Fielder had 3 hits and 2 RBI for Hotlanta.

G#5 Fister vs. Miller

Possums..... 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 2 6 0

Gunners..... 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 1 10 0

WP: Fister Save: Kimbrel LP: Miller

AG HR: Harper HP R: Cuddyer

Hotlanta wins the Wild Card series in another nail biter. All the scoring was in the first two innings. The Possums drew first blood on a 2out HR by Cuddyer in the 1st. Arsenal promptly tied the game in the bottom 1st on a 1 out HR by Harper. Hotlanta scored the winning run in the 2nd when with 2 outs Jackson walked, stole 2nd, and scored on a double by Rollins. The Gunners had several chances to tie the game. In the 3rd they had runners on 1st & 2nd with 2 outs but left them stranded. In the 5th a single and SAC bunt put a runner on 2nd, but again was left stranded. In the bottom 7th a single, K, and single put runners on 1st & 3rd. But O'Day came in and got Barton to line out and Harper to ground out to end that threat. Then in the bottom of the 9th Dunn singled with 2 outs. That made O'Day tired. Although already tired from pitching the prior 2 games Kimbrel was summoned from the bullpen to face Hechavarria. Bernadia came in to pinch run for Dunn. Hechavarria responded with a single sending Bernadina to 3rd base. Kimbrel then K's Barton to end the game and the series.

Miller endured another tough loss for Arsenal. He threw a complete game allowing 2 runs on 6 hits and 4 walks. Fister got credit for the win going 6.1 IP with 1 run on 8 hits and 0 walks. Hechavarria had 3 hits for the Gunners. Six different Possums had 1 hit each.

Arsenal could have easily won this series with a few timely hits. Dean had a lot of tough luck. Hotlanta only hit .199 for the series but had team 1.13 ERA. The Possums hit 7 HR's. Arsenal hit .220 with 3 HR's and a team 2.49 ERA. Cuddyer went 6 for 18, .333 with 4 RBI and 2 HR's to lead the Possums. Harper went 7 for 19, .368 with 1 RBI and 1 HR for the Gunners. My thanks to dean for a great series.

Jim