

# 2016 AL WILDCARD SERIES

## #4 Arsenal Gunners VS #5 Hotlanta Possums

### Game #1 Young vs. Miller

Possums..... 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 0 0 - 5 8 1  
Gunners..... 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 3 - 6 11 2  
WP: Perez LP: Watson SV: none  
AG HR; Stanton, Carpenter, Harper  
HP HR: none

Hotlanta took a commanding 5-1 lead in the 4th when they scored 5 runs. The rally consisted of a fly out, HBP, BB, single, HBP, single, SAF, 2 base error, and 1 base error. Arsenal cut the lead to 5-3 with back to back doubles after 2 were out in the 8th. The Possums brought in closer Kenley Jansen to record the last out of the 8th.

Jansen then struck out the first 2 batters in the 9th. One out to go, but Colby Rasmus worked a BB to keep the Gunners alive. Matt Carpenter then stepped up to plate and rolled a 4-9 which is a HR 1-11 or out. The split roll was "1", game tied. Tony Watson was then brought in to face Bryce Harper. The next roll was 1-4, pure HR. Game over. An improbable comeback win for the Gunners!

Arsenal leads series 1-0

### Game #2 Iwakuma vs. Ramirez

Possums..... 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 - 2 7 0  
Gunners..... 3 1 0 0 4 2 0 1 - 11 13 1  
WP: Worley LP: Iwakuma SV: none  
AG HR: Carpenter, Harper  
HP HR: none

The Possums draw first blood scoring an unearned run in the 1st. Arsenal retaliates in their half of the 1st scoring 3 runs before an out was even recorded. Brock Holt led off with a double. Wellington Castillo was hit by a pitch. Matt Carpenter then hit a 3 run HR, his 2nd HR in games. The Gunners never looked back pounding the Possums by a final score of 11-2.

Hotlanta prevented Gunner starter Erasmo Ramirez from getting the win, chasing him after 4.2 IP when they loaded the bases with 2 outs but failed to score. Shirly Worley's son Vince was awarded the win in relief. Matt Carpenter led the Gunners going 4 for 5 with 3 runs scored, 2 doubles, a HR, and 3 RBI.

Arsenal leads series 2-0

### Game #3 Pineda vs. Miley

Gunners..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 5 0  
Possums..... 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 - 2 6 0

WP: Kimbrel LP: Pineda SV: Britton

AG HR: none

HP HR: none

Four Possum pitchers combined to toss a shutout vs. Arsenal. The group allowed 5 hits and 4 walks while racking up 11 K's. Hotlanta got the only run it needed in the 2nd inning. Chris Coghlan started things off with a walk and then advanced to 2nd on a groundout. Austin Jackson ripped a single for the RBI. The Possums added an insurance run in the 4th. Brandon Phillips doubled and came home on Asdrubal Cabrera's single.

The Gunners had three scoring opportunities but came up short each time. They loaded the bases in the 3rd on 3 walks but Harper grounded out to end the inning. Then in the 4th they had runners on 2nd & 3rd with 1 out, but could not score. In the 5th a leadoff single and stolen base was followed by 2 K's and a single to put runners on 1st & 3rd, but once again could not score. Hotlanta relievers then retired the last 12 Gunner batters.

Arsenal leads series 2-1

### Game #4, Miller vs. Despaigne

Gunners..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 5 0  
Possums..... 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 2 - 3 8 0

WP: O'Day LP: S. Miller SV: Jansen

AG HR: none

HP HR: none

In another pitcher's duel Hotlanta beat Arsenal 3-0. In this game six Possum pitchers combined for another shutout holding the Gunners to 5 hits and 1 walk. Hotlanta scored a run in the 3rd. Austin Jackson and Matt Duffy started the inning with consecutive singles to put runners on 1st & 3rd. Alex Gordon's RBI groundout plated the run. The game stayed 1-0 until the 8th when Hotlanta added 2 big insurance runs. Brandon Phillips singled in 2 runs after a single, walk, and wild pitch put runners on 2nd & 3rd.

Arsenal never mounted much of a threat. Their 5 hits came in 5 different innings. Shelby Miller took a tough loss for the Gunners going 7 innings, allowing 6 hits, 2 BB's, and just 1 run.

Series tied 2-2

### Game #5 Perez vs. Young

Gunners..... 2 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 - 3 4 1  
Possums..... 0 4 0 4 0 0 2 4 - 14 18 1  
WP: Betances LP: Perez SV: none  
AG HR: Harper  
HP HR: Ruf, Cabrera

Bryce Harper hit a 2 run HR in the 1st inning for Arsenal ending an 18 inning scoring draught giving the Gunners a short lived 2-0 lead. Hotlanta comes back with avengence pounding out 18 hits while holding the Gunners to 4 hits. Brandon Phillips went 4 for 5 for Hotlanta while Darin Ruf chipped in with 5 RBI's.

Hotlanta leads series 3-2

### Game #6 Iwakuma vs. Ramirez

Possums..... 2 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 - 4 12 0  
Gunners..... 2 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 3 8 1  
WP: Jansen LP: Worley SV: none  
AG HR: Carpenter  
HP GR: none

Hotlanta starts the scoring with 2 runs in the 1st. With 1 out Prince Fielder doubles and Mike Cuddyer singles, runners 1st & 3rd. Adrian Beltre singles in 1 run and a second run scores on a passed ball.

Arsenal ties the game in the bottom of the 1st. With 1 out Wellington Castillo singles and matt carpenter follows with his third HR of the series.

Hotlanta goes up 3-2 in the 4th. Branyan Pena reaches on an error. With 2 out Cabrera walks and Phillips singles in Pena.

Arsenal comes right back and ties it in the bottom of the 4th. Danny Valencia and Travis Shaw both walk to start the inning. Giancarlo Stanton singles to load the bases with 0 outs. Joe Panik hits into a DP scoring 1 run. Adeiny Hechavarria strikes out to end the inning.

In the 5th Hotlanta gets runners on 1st & 3rd with 1 out but cannot score. In the bottom 5th Arsenal squanders a leadoff double.

Over the 6th, 7th, and 8th innings both team can only muster one single each.

Arsenal missed an opportunity in the bottom of the 9th. After 2 were out Darrin O'Day issued a walk and then allowed a single. Kenley Jansen came in to pitch and walked Brock Holt to load the bases. Mark Canha pinch hit, but struck out.

Hotlanta took the lead in the 11th on back to back leadoff doubles by Austin Jackson and Matt Duffy. In the bottom of the 11th Jansen struck out

Stanton, got Panik to ground out, and then struck out Hechavarria to end the game.

### Hotlanta wins the series 4-2

#### Summary

Congratulations to Dean on a great year and great series. Four of the games were nail biters and could have gone either way.

Arsenal hit .223 for the series but rapped 7 HR's. Hotlanta hit .277 with 2 HR's. Arsenal had a 3.57 team ERA, but 5 Gunner errors led to 9 unearned runs which hurt them. Hotlanta had a 3.79 team ERA.

Matt Carpenter led the Gunners offense hitting .320 (8 for 25) with 3 HR's and 8 RBI. A big factor in the series was Giancarlo Stanton being held to .188 (3 for 16) with only 1 HR and 2 RBI. His card is downright scary.

Asdrubal Cabrera .391 (9 for 23, 5 RBI) and Brandon.385 (10 for 26, 6 RBI) led the Possum attack.

Also, thanks to Dean for traveling up to Duluth to play FTF. Sorry my team mascot growled at you. I told you she wouldn't bite you. LOL