

2021 AL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

#4 Hotlanta Possums at #3 Lake Wobegon Whippets

Game 1:

HOTLANTA AT LAKE WOBEGON

Possums..... 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 - 2 5 1

Whippets..... 0 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 - 3 4 0

Win:Hendricks(1-0) Loss:Anderson(2-1) Save:Hendriks(1st)

Homeruns- B.Dalbec(3rd), C.Moran(1st)

The Lake Wobegon Whippets and the Hotlanta Possums locked up in an exciting one-run game at Gary's Shoes Park. The final score was the Lake Wobegon Whippets 3, the Hotlanta Possums 2.

Lake Wobegon took the lead for keeps in the bottom of the 2nd inning plating an isolated run. Lake Wobegon had only 4 hits for the afternoon.

Kyle Hendricks(1-0) went 6 innings allowing 1 run for the victory. Hendricks got relief help from Liam Hendriks who gained credit for his 1st save. Ian Anderson(2-1) was hit with the loss. He allowed 4 hits and 2 walks in 5 and 1/3 innings.

CONDENSED PLAY LOG

TOP 1- Winker-K, Dalbec-K, Arraez-G

BOT 1- Diaz-W, WP, Ward-L, Springer-W, Dickerson-G-DP

TOP 2- Higashioka-G, Kepler-K, Walker-F

BOT 2- Solano-L, Plawecki-K, Moran-HR, Schoop-K

TOP 3- Merrifield-Si, Moncada-F, WP, Ahmed-F, Winker-G

BOT 3- Lindor-G, Diaz-F, Ward-K

TOP 4- Dalbec-F, Arraez-Si, Higashioka-L, Kepler-F

BOT 4- Springer-Si, Dickerson-E-P, Solano-Si, WP, Plawecki-F, Moran-F
Schoop-F

TOP 5- Walker-G, Merrifield-FO, Moncada-F

BOT 5- Lindor-L, Diaz-Do, Ward-G, Springer-F

TOP 6- Ahmed-K, Winker-G, Dalbec-HR, Arraez-Si, Higashioka-L

BOT 6- Dickerson-K, Solano-G, Plawecki-G

TOP 7- Bonifacio-G, Walker-K, Merrifield-FO

BOT 7- Moran-K, Schoop-W, Lindor-K, Diaz-W, Ward-G

TOP 8- Moncada-Si, Ahmed-G, Winker-F, Dalbec-G

BOT 8- Springer-FO, Yelich-G, Solano-L

TOP 9- Solak-W, Kratz-W, Urias-F, Guzman-K, Merrifield-W, Kemp-W, Ahmed-G

Game 2:

HOTLANTA AT LAKE WOBEGON

Possums..... 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 1 4 0

Whippets..... 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 - 3 6 0

Win:Keuchel(1-0) Loss:McKenzie(0-1) Save:Garcia(1st)

Homeruns- B.Dalbec(4th), C.Yelich-2(2nd), F.Lindor(1st)

Christian Yelich smashed 2 homeruns as the Lake Wobegon Whippets outscored the Hotlanta Possums 3 to 1.

Lake Wobegon took the lead for keeps in the 3rd inning plating an isolated run on 2 base hits. That scoring would be all that was needed. Lake Wobegon managed only 6 hits on the night.

Dallas Keuchel(1-0) was the winner allowing 1 run in 7 innings. Keuchel got help from Jarlin Garcia who earned his 1st save. Triston McKenzie(0-1) was charged with the loss. He allowed 3 homeruns in 4 innings of work.

CONDENSED PLAY LOG

TOP 1- Moncada-G, Winker-L, Merrifield-F
BOT 1- Yelich-HR, Springer-K, Dickerson-W, Moran-K, Solano-F
TOP 2- Dalbec-HR, Bonifacio-G, Ahmed-F, Solak-Si, Walker-G
BOT 2- Dietrich-K, Schoop-K, Plawecki-Si, Lindor-K
TOP 3- Flowers-Si, Moncada-W, Winker-K, Merrifield-G-DP
BOT 3- Yelich-HR, Springer-Si, Dickerson-G, Moran-L, Solano-F
TOP 4- Dalbec-K, Bonifacio-K, Ahmed-Do, Solak-K
BOT 4- Dietrich-K, Schoop-G, Plawecki-K
TOP 5- Walker-G, Flowers-K, Moncada-W, Winker-F
BOT 5- Lindor-HR, Yelich-G, Springer-G, Dickerson-K
TOP 6- Merrifield-G, Dalbec-F, Bonifacio-G
BOT 6- Diaz-G, Solano-K, Farmer-G
TOP 7- Ahmed-FO, Solak-L, Walker-K
BOT 7- Schoop-L, Plawecki-K, Lindor-G
TOP 8- Flowers-K, Moncada-G, Winker-G
BOT 8- Yelich-G, Springer-Do, Ward-G, Diaz-G
TOP 9- Merrifield-P, Dalbec-L, Bonifacio-G

Game 3:

LAKE WOBEGON AT HOTLANTA

Whippets..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 - 1 6 0
Possums..... 3 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 - 5 11 0
Win:Kim(1-0) Loss:Foster(0-1)
Homeruns- F.Lindor(2nd), R.Guzman(2nd)

Kwang Hyun Kim went 7 strong innings at Possums Park as the Hotlanta Possums beat the Lake Wobegon Whippets by the count of 5 to 1. Kim(1-0) was in control of the game from the outset. He didn't give up much, just 3 hits and 1 walk in 7 innings reducing his ERA from 1.32 to 0.87. Hotlanta had 11 hits for the game and Lake Wobegon had 6.

Matt Foster(0-1) was the loser. He was knocked around, surrendering 3 runs in 2 innings.

CONDENSED PLAY LOG

TOP 1- Lindor-FO, Diaz-W, Yelich-K, Brosseau-G
BOT 1- Winker-W, Flowers-K, Arraez-Si, Merrifield-SF, Guzman-HR, Walker-K
TOP 2- Springer-F, Solano-Si, Ramos-Do, Schoop-K, Ward-F
BOT 2- Kepler-L, Moncada-Si, Ahmed-K, Winker-G
TOP 3- Lindor-F, Diaz-K, Yelich-K
BOT 3- Flowers-G, Arraez-F, Merrifield-P
TOP 4- Brosseau-L, Springer-F, Solano-Do, Ramos-P
BOT 4- Bonifacio-Si, Walker-K, Kepler-Si, Moncada-Si, Ahmed-K, Winker-G
TOP 5- Schoop-K, Ward-F, Lindor-F
BOT 5- Flowers-Si, Arraez-P, Merrifield-F, WP, Bonifacio-K
TOP 6- Diaz-F, Yelich-K, Brosseau-G
BOT 6- Walker-G, Kepler-Do, Moncada-F, Ahmed-Si, Urias-L
TOP 7- Springer-HBP, Solano-G-DP, Ramos-F
BOT 7- Flowers-K, Arraez-W, Merrifield-P, Kratz-Do, Walker-K
TOP 8- Schoop-G, Ward-G, Lindor-HR, Diaz-Si, Yelich-K

BOT 8- Kepler-Si, Moncada-K, Ahmed-G-DP
TOP 9- Brosseau-K, Dickerson-K, Solano-Do, Dietrich-G

Game 4:

LAKE WOBEGON AT HOTLANTA

Whippets..... 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 - 2 9 0

Possums..... 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 - 3 12 0

Win:Martin(2-1) Loss:Cisnero(0-1)

Homeruns- B.Dalbec(5th), C.Walker(1st)

Hotlanta Possums broke the deadlock in their last at bats, pulling out a 3 to 2 win over the Lake Wobegon Whippets and sending their hometown fans home smiling.

The game was won by Hotlanta when they scored a run in the 9th inning. After two were out Nick Ahmed lined a base-hit. Tony Kemp stepped up next and he drew a walk. Ramon Urias then drew a walk to load the bases. Nick Solak was up next and he slapped a one-base hit giving Hotlanta the victory and sending the 49,956 home-town fans home happy. Hotlanta out-hit Lake Wobegon for the game, 12 hits to 9.

The victory was credited to Chris Martin(2-1) who went 1 inning, allowing no runs. Jose Cisnero(0-1) absorbed the loss in relief.

CONDENSED PLAY LOG

TOP 1- Diaz-F, Ward-L, Brosseau-Si, Solano-Do, Schoop-HBP, Plawecki-L

BOT 1- Winker-Si, Dalbec-F, Arraez-G-DP

TOP 2- Moran-L, Lindor-Si, WP, Yelich-K, Diaz-HBP, Ward-G

BOT 2- Higashioka-F, Kepler-G, Walker-HR, Merrifield-Si, CS(Merrifield)

TOP 3- Brosseau-K, Solano-G, Schoop-G

BOT 3- Moncada-K, Ahmed-Si, Winker-W, Dalbec-K, Arraez-L

TOP 4- Plawecki-HBP, Moran-Force, Lindor-Si, Yelich-K, Farmer-Si, Ward-G

BOT 4- Higashioka-Si, Kepler-F, Walker-F, Merrifield-F

TOP 5- Brosseau-G, Solano-G, Schoop-G

BOT 5- Moncada-G, Ahmed-K, Winker-K

TOP 6- Plawecki-Do, Moran-F, Lindor-F, Yelich-K

BOT 6- Dalbec-HR, Arraez-Si, Higashioka-K, Kepler-K, Walker-G

TOP 7- Farmer-F, Ward-Do, Dickerson-F, Solano-IW, Schoop-G

BOT 7- Merrifield-Si, Moncada-G, Ahmed-L, Kratz-Si, Urias-IW, Bonifacio-G

TOP 8- Plawecki-Si, Moran-K, Lindor-K, Yelich-F

BOT 8- Flowers-Si, Kepler-G-DP, Walker-FO

TOP 9- Farmer-Si, Ward-G-DP, Dickerson-G

BOT 9- Merrifield-L, Moncada-K, Ahmed-Si, Kemp-W, Urias-W, Solak-Si

Game 5:

LAKE WOBEGON AT HOTLANTA

Whippets..... 0 0 1 7 0 1 0 0 1 - 10 8 0

Possums..... 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 0 0 - 3 6 3

Win:Gomber(1-0) Loss:Anderson(2-2)

Homeruns- G.Springer(1st), J.Schoop(1st), W.Merrifield(2nd), C.Walker(2nd)

Second baseman Jonathan Schoop hit a homerun and had 2 RBI as the Lake Wobegon Whippets topped the Hotlanta Possums by a score of 10 to 3 at Possums Park.

Lake Wobegon took the lead for keeps in the top of the 3rd inning plating an isolated run using 2 hits. Lake Wobegon had 8 hits for the night.

Austin Gomber(1-0) got the win allowing 2 runs in 2 and 2/3 innings. Ian Anderson(2-2) was hit with the loss. He allowed Lake Wobegon 8 runs in 3 and 1/3 innings of work.

CONDENSED PLAY LOG

TOP 1- Diaz-Si, Ward-F, Springer-K, Dickerson-K
BOT 1- Winker-P, Merrifield-W, Arraez-F, Higashioka-K
TOP 2- Solano-G, Plawecki-K, Moran-K
BOT 2- Guzman-K, Walker-Do, WP, Kepler-K, Moncada-W, Ahmed-W, Winker-Force
TOP 3- Schoop-HR, Lindor-P, Diaz-Do, Ward-G, Springer-G
BOT 3- Merrifield-G, Arraez-L, Flowers-K
TOP 4- Dickerson-E-LF, Solano-F, Plawecki-W, Moran-W, Schoop-Si, WP
Lindor-W, Diaz-SF+E-LF, WP, Ward-Si, Springer-W, Yelich-Do, Solano-G
Plawecki-K
BOT 4- Solak-Si, Walker-HR, Kepler-G, Moncada-K, Ahmed-Si, Winker-K
TOP 5- Moran-F, Schoop-L, Lindor-K
BOT 5- Merrifield-HR, Arraez-P, Flowers-W, Solak-L, Walker-F
TOP 6- Diaz-K, Ward-G, Springer-HR, Yelich-F
BOT 6- Kepler-K, Moncada-K, Ahmed-L
TOP 7- Solano-G, Plawecki-W, Moran-G-DP
BOT 7- Winker-Si, Merrifield-L, Kemp-K, Flowers-K
TOP 8- Schoop-W, Lindor-F, Diaz-G-DP
BOT 8- Solak-G, Walker-G, Kepler-F
TOP 9- Diaz-G, Springer-E-SS, Yelich-G, Solano-Do, Ramos-G
BOT 9- Moncada-K, Ahmed-G, Winker-K

Game 6:

HOTLANTA AT LAKE WOBEGON

Possums..... 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 3 6 0
Whippets..... 3 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 - 6 7 0
Win:Cisnero(1-1) Loss:McKenzie(0-2) Save:Hendriks(2nd)
Homeruns- G.Springer(2nd), C.Moran(2nd), F.Lindor(3rd)

In a game at Gary's Shoes Park the Lake Wobegon Whippets got by the Hotlanta Possums by the score of 6 to 3.

Jose Cisnero(1-1) did a nice job in relief and was credited with the win. He didn't allow much, just 1 hit and no walks in 1 and 2/3 innings reducing his ERA from 6.75 to 3.00. Lake Wobegon banged out 7 hits on the afternoon. Liam Hendriks was credited with his 2nd save. The loss was charged to Triston McKenzie(0-2). He allowed Lake Wobegon 4 runs in 2 innings of work.

CONDENSED PLAY LOG

TOP 1- Moncada-G, Winker-L, Kratz-Si, Dalbec-W, Merrifield-K
BOT 1- Yelich-W, Springer-F, Dickerson-Si, Moran-HR, Solano-F, Dietrich-F
TOP 2- Bonifacio-Si, Ahmed-F, Solak-F, Walker-Tr, Moncada-W, Winker-G
BOT 2- Plawecki-K, Schoop-G, Lindor-HR, Yelich-G
TOP 3- Kratz-Si, Dalbec-HBP, Merrifield-Si, Bonifacio-Force, Ahmed-SF
Solak-G
BOT 3- Springer-Si, Dickerson-K, Moran-FO, Solano-K
TOP 4- Walker-F, Moncada-L, Winker-F
BOT 4- Dietrich-HBP, Plawecki-K, Schoop-W, Lindor-P, Yelich-K
TOP 5- Higashioka-F, Dalbec-P, Merrifield-Si, Guzman-K
BOT 5- Springer-F, Dickerson-Si, Moran-W, Solano-Do, Dietrich-FC, Plawecki-G
TOP 6- Ahmed-G, Solak-L, Walker-G
BOT 6- Schoop-W, Lindor-F, Yelich-Force, SB(Yelich), Springer-W, Dickerson-G

TOP 7- Moncada-L, Winker-G, Flowers-K
BOT 7- Moran-W, Solano-F, Dietrich-F, Plawecki-W, Schoop-K
TOP 8- Dalbec-K, Merrifield-L, Urias-G
BOT 8- Lindor-G, Yelich-F, Springer-HR, Dickerson-K
TOP 9- Ahmed-K, Arraez-K, Walker-K

Jim Ferguson

Lake Wobegon caught a few more breaks than Hotlanta in this series, outscoring the Possums by 25-17, yes, but most of that gap can be attributed to one inning where Winker made 2 errors and the Whippets scored a touchdown and extra point. The winning club had four guys who scored 4 runs each, and three guys who drove in 4 runs each, and another guy who did neither of those things but hit over .300 with 5 doubles. Maybe Lindor was the MVP, hitting 3 solo homeruns and converting several more Gb(X) chances at short than you would expect in 6 games.

Jim J. was a terrific opponent and had a great team this season. The ALCS felt like it was on a knife's edge much of the time, what with this season's extreme hitting cards, with much of each roster consisting of guys with at least one special side and many with all-star type hit chances. The heart of the Whippets team is its bullpen, but they are only good as long as the hitters they are facing will roll 4, 5, or 6 about half the time.

Despite numerous playoff appearances, the Whippets last appeared in the World Series in 1994, back in the days of Appier-Benes-Finley in the rotation, with a long lineup that included Jeffries & J.Bell near the top, and older versions of Raines & Winfield further down. Mr Marlin Jeff Conine helped out too, and Will Clark arrived on August 31st in a deadline deal from the (then) Poquonnock Chiefs. It's been a minute.