

2024 NL DIVISIONAL SERIES

#1 Connecticut Blue Devils vs #3 Taxachusetts Chiefs

The Blue Devils and Chiefs battled in the NLCS today (10/31) doing the old-fashioned rolling of the dice face to face. The teams went 6-6 during the season so a tough series was expected.

At the Devil Dome...

GAME 1 Cole vs. Lynn

Gerritt Cole started off the game with 5 perfect innings for CT. Meanwhile the Blue Devils knocked out 10 hits off Lynn over the first 3 innings but could only score 2 runs. Chiefs get their first hit in the 6th and load the bases with 1 out but Bogaerts hits into a double play. In the 7th Cody Bellinger hits a leadoff HR to cut lead to 2-1 but Thairo Estrada answers back with a solo HR in the bottom of the 7th to put the Blue Devils back up 3-1 and the CT bullpen closes the game out with the final 6 outs. Chiefs had only 2 hits while CT had 14 hits but left 15 men on base.

GAME 2 Kelly vs. Cobb

Chiefs score right off the start with a Semien single and Bogaerts RBI double for 1-0 lead. But Blue Devils scrape 1 run in each of the first 3 innings off Alex Cobb for a 3-1 lead led by a Bobby Witt Jr triple and RBI's from Corey Seager and Jeimer Candelario. Merrill Kelly then shut down the Chief bats pitching into the 7th inning allowing just 5 hits with 9 K's. The CT bullpen was tough again allowing just 1 hit over the last 2.2 innings for another 3-1 victory.

At Metacomet Park ...

GAME 3 Rasmussen vs. Suarez

Blue Devils start quickly with a Freddy Freeman RBI double and 2 run HR from Bobby Witt for early 3-0 lead. A Gary Sanchez RBI double and Seager sac fly increase lead to 5-0 in the 3rd inning. CT starter Drew Rasmussen was pitching a perfect game through 4 innings. Chiefs get to him in the 5th with back-to-back singles from Marcell Ozuna and Matt Wallner and an RBI groundout from Manny Machado to make it 5-1. But Blue Devils bat around in the 7th inning getting 7 hits and 2 walks scoring 8 runs highlighted by a Mark Canha 3 run HR to open 13-1 lead and coast home to victory. Blue Devil bullpen pitches 4.2 more shutout innings allowing just 1 hit.

GAME 4 Cole vs. Martinez

Blue Devils start fast again looking for the sweep opening a 4-0 lead into the 3rd inning using 7 singles, a walk and hit batter. Chiefs fight back in the 3rd off Gerritt Cole loading the bases and getting a sac fly from Bogaerts and RBI single from Ozuna to cut lead to 4-2. Ozuna blasts a solo HR in the 6th and Semien hits a solo HR in the 7th off Cole and Chiefs tie game at 4-4 as their bullpen was holding down the CT bats. Into the 9th, Chiefs bring in their closer to try and keep it a tie game but is greeted by a leadoff double from Freeman.

After Witt flies out, Seager is intentionally walked to set up the double play but Diaz then walks Candelario to load the bases with 1 out and then walks Bo Naylor to force in a run as CT takes a 5-4 lead. Diaz gets out of further trouble. Bottom of the 9th, CT brings in their closer Evan Phillips who promptly walks the pinch hitter Willyer Abreu. After a strikeout of Shea Languiers, Semien singles putting runners on 1st and 2nd with 1 out. But Matt Wallner then raps into a 4-6-3 double play to end the threat and the Blue Devils win 5-4 and get the series sweep.

The Blue Devils move on to the World Series to face the AL Champion Blue Grass Blues. This will be the Blue Devil's 3rd World Series (1-1 record) and the 4th World Series for Blue Grass (0-3 record). The teams split a 2-game series during the season

CONGRATS to Bud for a great season! He couldn't get any rolls today. When he wasn't on the CT pitching cards which was most of the time, he'd miss his hitter's columns. And I think the Chiefs got only 2 ballpark HR chances all day which is obviously a big part of their offense.

Series Notes:

- the CT bullpen could be named the MVP as they pitched 12 innings allowing just 1 run on 4 hits with 9 K's.
- Bobby Witt Jr was named MVP batting .389 with 4 runs, 3 RBI, a Triple and 2 run HR.
- Taxachusetts offense struggled scoring just 7 runs with only 20 hits over the 4 games