2026 NL DIVISIONAL SERIES

#1 Norwich Navigators vs #5 Hazardville Powderkegs

Last season these two teams played a game 7 in the NLCS. The Chiefs won the pennant when Marcel Ozuna hit a walk-off homer in the 10th inning.

GAME 1

Gausman vs. Suarez

The first runs of the series didn't come until the 6th inning with RBI hits by Baez and Jones. AS 2-0. THe 89ers added another run on Mangum's 2-out RBI single in the 7th. Meanwhile, Kevin Gausman and Devin Williams combined to shutout the Chiefs and take the series opener. AS 3-0.

Allyn Street leads the series 1-0.

GAME 2

Mahle vs. Valdez

Fans were treated to an old-fashioned pitcher's duel, as the game remained scoreless until Wilyer Abreu led off the bottom of the 6th with a homer off Carlos Estevez. TX 1-0. In the 7th, Austin Wells shocked the hometown faithful with a 2-out, 2-run homer off DL Hall. AS 2-1. The 89ers added two more runs in the 8th with a walk, 2 SBs, and 2 singles. AS 4-1. In the bottom of the 8th, Matt Wallner greeted Devin Williams with a pinch-hit 3-run homer. Game tied, 4-4. Scott Barlow retired the 89ers 1-2-3 in the 9th. In the bottom of the 9th, Grisham walked and Langeliers doubled him home on a close play at the plate. The Chiefs complete the comeback and tie the series. TX won 5-4,

The series is tied 1 game apiece.

GAME 3

Leiter vs. Schwellenbach

Schwellenbach and two relievers dominated the Chief lineup, allowing only 1 run. Meanwhile, the balanced 89er attack put up 7 runs on 14 hits, including 5 for 12 with RISP. Mangum went 3 for 4 out of the 9th slot.

Allyn Street up 2-1 in the series.

GAME 4

Martinez vs. Abbott

With one out in the 2nd inning, the 89ers strung together six straight hits, including an Adolis Garcia homer, and plated four runs. AS 4-0. The Chiefs answered back in the 5th on a 2-out, 3-run homer by Nico Hoerner. AS 4-3. Laureano homered in the 6th to tie it, 4-4, and then he gave the Chiefs the lead in the 8th with a 2-out RBI single. TX 5-4. Mgr. Carter brought in closer Jansen to start the 8th and the 89ers went down 1-2-3. In the bottom of the 9th, pinch-hitter Bryce Johnson singled, stole second, moved to third on a balk, and scored the tying run on a sac fly. The game remained tied until the 12th. Teel's 2-out RBI double gave the Chiefs the lead. After an intentional walk to Bellinger, Laureano followed with a walk to load the bases. Wallner then tripled to clear the bases. Machado singled him home. The Chiefs go on to win 10-5 in 12 innings.

The series is tied 2 games apiece.

GAME 5

Suarez vs. Gausman

Both starting pitchers go 8 innings!!! Thank Goodness!!! The 89ers tied the game 4-4 in the bottom of the 8th on a 2-out RBI double by Higashioka. Neither team would score again until the 16th inning when Willy Adames blasted a walk-off homer off Jimmy Herget. AS won 5-4.

Allyn Street up 3-2 in the series.

GAME 6

Mahle vs. Valdez

AS jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the 4th on 2-out RBI singles by Edwards and Ramirez. AS pitching held the Chiefs scoreless until the 6th when Laureano's 2-out single off Danny Santana scored the TX first run. AS 2-1.
Langeliers doubled to lead off the bottom of the 7th, but Santana struck out Walker and Semien. Then in a Bucky "Bleepin'" Dent moment, Nico Hoerner hit another clutch homer to give the Chiefs a 3-2 lead. Framber Valdez pitched a 1-2-3 8th before handing the game over to Kenley Jansen who closed out the victory with a 1-2-3 ninth.

TX won 3-2 to force a game 7.

GAME 7

Schwellenbach vs. Leiter

Xavier Edwards homered as the 2nd batter of the game to give AS a 1-0 lead. Schwellenbach faced the minimum 12 batters through 4 innings, but he was unable to come out for the 5th inning.

Casey Stengel decided to go with his closer Danny Santana in the 5th inning. Teel led off with a walk and a stolen base. Laureano singled him home to tie the game. Joe Carter put on the hit-and-run play and Bellinger singled with Laureano advancing to third. Stengel then brought in Devin Williams to face Langeliers, who struck out, but Bellinger stole second. A wild pitch scored the go ahead run, and Bellinger advanced to third. Abreu grounded one to the usually sure-handed Jose Ramirez who booted it to allow the third run to score. TX up 3-1 after 5 innings.

Rookie Jack Leiter pitched into the 6th inning. Edwards led off with a single, but Leiter struck out Ramirez. Mgr. Carter then went to his pen, and Jimmy Herget retired all six batters he faced. In the 8th, DL Hall worked around a one-out walk to Edwards to record the final two outs of the inning. Chief closer Kenley Jansen came on in the 9th to face pinch-hitter Gavin Sheets who popped out. Jansen struck out power threat Willy Adames for the 2nd out. Stengel sent Isaac Collins to the plate as the 89ers' last hope. Collins flied out to end the game and the series.

The Chiefs advance to the NLCS against Hazardville!

SUMMARY

Congrats to Rob and Casey on a terrific season and an exciting series. Rob, as always, was a perfect gentleman even though his team lost a series when it outplayed the Chiefs for the first six games. 89er pitching blanked the Chiefs for the first 14 innings of the series. They had another stretch of 17 consecutive scoreless innings. But the Strat Gods were not kind to the 89ers at the biggest moments.

Series MVP - Framber Valdez, his 3rd consecutive series MVP for the Chiefs. He led the Chiefs to two victories following losses, pitching 13.2 innings with a 1.32 ERA.

Team Stats AS .255/.303/.369, 5 HR, 10 SB, 3.20 ERA.
TX .195/.250/.315, 6 HR, 7 SB, 3.42 ERA.
Has any team won a series with an OPS of .565???

Bud