2026 NL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

#2 Taxachusetts Chiefs vs #5 Hazardville Powderkegs

GAME 1 Skubal vs Ra.Suarez

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Powderkegs..... 1 0 1  1 0 0  0 0 0  -  3  7  0
Chiefs......... 0 0 1  2 3 0  0 1 -  -  7  7  0
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Win: R.Suarez Loss: Skubal Save: Jansen
Homeruns- Castro, Laureano, Langeliers

Ranger Suarez starts out the game wild by walking one and hitting 3 batters in the top of the first. Tarik Skubal is not much better as he hits 2 batters in the 3rd that led to a run. The Chief power comes through with a 2-run homer by Laureano in the 4th and a 3 run dinger in the 5th by Langeliers and that is all it took. Kensley Jansen pitched 1.1 innings for a the save and a Chief victory. 6 batters were hit by pitch in the game.

Taxachusetts leads the series 1-0.

GAME 2 Rodon vs N.Martinez

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Powderkegs..... 0 1 1  1 0 0  0 0 0  -  3  12  1
Chiefs......... 1 0 0  1 1 0  0 1 -  -  4   8  1
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Win: DL.Hall Loss: Vesia Save: Jansen
Homeruns- Grisham, Machado

A tight ball game was tied at 3 going in the bottom of the 8th when Marcel Ozunal led off the inning with a deep shot. There were baserunners all over the place by both teams but neither team could get the big hit until the Ozuna homer. The Powderkegs threaten in the 9th with 2 runners reaching base off Jansen but he shut the door to preserve the victory.

Taxachusetts takes the first 2 home games and leads the series 2-0.

GAME 3 Valdez vs Singer

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Chiefs......... 0 0 0  0 0 0  1 0 0  -  1   2  0
Powderkegs..... 0 0 1  0 0 0  0 3 -  -  4  10  1
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Win: Ty,Rogers Loss: Herget
Homeruns- Swanson

Another real tight ball game. Single runs by Hazardville in the 3rd and Tazachusetts in the 7th made for an exciting ending. In the bottom of the 8th Dansby Swanson led off the inning with a deep homer to give the Powderkegs the lead. Scott Barlow then came in and walked the bases loaded before Westburg came through with a single to plate 2 insurance runs. Another hit by pitch moves up the total to 7 for the series. Despite this there has not been a brawl.

The home field advantage is maintained. Taxachusetts leads the series 2 games to 1.

GAME 4 Leiter vs Schlittler

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Chiefs......... 0 0 0  0 0 0  0 0 0  -  0  3  0
Powderkegs..... 3 0 3  0 2 0  0 0 -  -  8  8  0
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Win: Schlittler Loss: Leiter
Homeruns- Wood, Torkelson

The Powderkegs jump all over Leiter and run away with the game. Meanwhile Schlittler held the Chiefs with only 1 hit and no walks over 6.2. Brash and Phillips keep the pressure on and preserve the shutout. 2 more hit by pitches raises the total to 9 for the series.

The series is tied 2 games apiece as the home team has won each game.

GAME 5 Suarez vs Skubal

Chiefs..... 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 - 2 5 0
Powderkegs..... 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - - 5 12 1
Win: Skubal Loss: Suarez Save: R.Rodriguez
Homeruns- Swanson, Wood, Machado

After getting roughed up in game 1 Tarik Skubal settled down and pitched 8 four hit innings. His only blemish was a Machado homer producing 2 unearned runs. Ranger Suarez did not have it for the Chiefs. He gave up 5 runs in the top of the first only recording 1 out. That big inning demoralized the Chiefs who really didn't do much the rest of the game. Both teams had another hit batsman bring the total now up to 11 for the series.

The home holds the torch. Hazardville takes a 3 game to 2 lead in the series.

GAME 6 Rodon vs N.Martinez

Powderkegs..... 0 2 0 4 2 0 0 0 1 1 - 10 11 0
Chiefs..... 0 0 0 4 1 0 4 0 0 0 - 9 10 0
Win: Romero Loss: Jansen Save: R.Rodriguez
Homeruns- Swanson(2), Langeliers, Wood, Meyers

This game was a classic. In a thrilling 10 inning game the Powderkegs come back in the 9th then win it in the 10th inning.

This was not a pitchers duel. The 'Kegs get 2 in the 3rd only to give up a Langeliers grand slam in the 3rd. Hazardville comes back with 4 of their own in the 4th help by Barlow and Hall walks and a big Greene double. Two more runs in the 5th extend the Keg lead to 8-5. Manager Carter was really depressed as Bud was already congratulating the Kegs on the win. They did not give up though. In the bottom of the 7th the Chiefs rally for 4 runs of their own thanks in large part to a Machado 3 run double off Tyler Rogers. The Chiefs now hold a 9-8 lead. They carry that into the 9th with Kensley Jansen entering the game. After a fly out James Wood quieted the home crown with a game tying home deep home run. The game is not over though. In the bottom of the 9th Hoerner leads off with a walk, 2 K's followed but Laureano gets a single. Romero comes in to face Machado and he walks loading the bases. Abreu comes up and hits a tapper back to the mound. Into extra innings we go. Jake Meyers leads off facing Jansen. Meyers is weak but does have a 1-17 homer on his card. He finds it giving the Powderkegs a 10-9 lead. Jansen bears down and gets the next 3 batters 1-2-3 but the damage was done. We move to the bottom of the 10th. Romero stays in and K's Grisham but walks Semien. Randy Rodriguez comes in and promptly gives up a single to Ozuna. Runners on 1st and 2nd. Hoerner, who was having a tough series then lines out in a big at bat. Teel pitch hits and walks to load the bases. Chief hero Langeliers comes up with the bags juiced but fans to end the game. What a game.

Hazardville wins the series 4 games to 2.

SUMMARY

Congratulations to the Bud Drapeau and the Taxachusetts Chiefs on a great season. He carried a great start of the season to the #2 NL seed and the division crown. His team came back time after time but elite closer Kensley Jansen let him down though when it

mattered most. He played the series with class and was a pleasure to play against. It shows the quality of players in this league.

The series was weird with all the hit by pitches. There was one more in the 6th game and 12 for the series. I guess the pitchers decided they had to pitch inside.

Series MVP was Jake Meyers. He filled up the stat sheet. He was 10-19 (.526) with 4 runs scored, 3 RBI, 2 walks, 2 HBP, 2 SB and the series winning home run.

The Powderkegs look forward to our series against the juggernauts from the AL, Bissel Cove or Atlanta. Whomever we face our little old wildcard team will be a huge underdog.

Bob