Dominant pitching backed by three home runs is a good winning formula and that’s exactly what the Corpus Christi Hooks used to defeat the RockHounds, 8-2, Sunday afternoon at Security Bank Ballpark.

Cristian Javier tossed five scoreless innings and Bryan Abreu went the last four in a tandem start, allowing two runs (one earned). Javier was dominant, giving up just one hit and three walks while striking out eight.

James Naile matched Javier through the first four innings before Corpus Christi scored four in the fifth, capped by a three-run homer into the right field bullpen in the eighth (both off Trey Cochran-Gill).

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RockHounds 2

Corpus Christi Hooks 8

Season 58-58
Streak L 1 vs. AMA 11-14
1st Half 34-35 Lag 4-6 vs. K 6-7
2nd Half 25-24 Extra Inns. 7-4 vs. CC 13-13
Home 33-30 Series 3-1 vs. FRI 14-12
Road 26-29 Homestand 3-4 vs. NWA 6-2
vs. RH 46-45 vs. South 38-39 vs. SPR 3-3
vs. LH 13-14 vs. North 21-20 vs. TUL 6-8

KIBBLES & BITS

“STATISTICS ARE TO BASEBALL WHAT A FLAKY CRUST IS TO MOM’S APPLE PIE” - - HARRY REASONER

STAT OF THE DAY

Cristian Javier’s pitching line is borderline ridiculous. In 70.0 innings, he has allowed just TWENTY-NINE (29) hits, with 38 walks and 104 strikeouts. The Astros prospect (#10, per MLB.com) has a 2.06 ERA, a 0.96 WHIP and a .123 opponent batting average.

Texas League South

Frisco has made a major move in the division. The RoughRiders have won six-in-a-row after completing a sweep of division-leading Amarillo in the Metroplex with a 6-0 shutout win Sunday night.

The Riders have edged past the RockHounds (by a half-game) in the second race and are within a half-game of the ‘Hounds in the (potential) wild card race.

Note: The standings, above, are now corrected.

As the teams of the Texas League take the diamond Monday, there are 21 games remaining in the 2019 regular season and, just the way the schedule breaks down, Amarillo and Corpus Christi have very favorable schedules over the last three weeks of the season.

The Sod Poodles and Hooks both play 15-of-21 at home, while the ‘Hounds and Frisco have the exact opposite - 15 games on the road and six at home.

Amarillo shares the league’s top second half record with Arkansas and the Sod Poodles have been much better (+11) at home than one road (-4). Playing 15-of-21 at Hodgetown gives Amarillo a (very) logical shot at sweeping both half-season pennants, which would then bring the wild card playoff berth into play.

Corpus Christi has also been much better at home (+9) compared to the road (-15).

Notables

Edwin Diaz has hit in six straight games (9-22, .409) and the double Sunday was his league-leading 31st. The RockHounds’ shortstop ranks second in the TXL with a career-high 47 extra-base hits.