Inland Empire 66ers (56-81, 30-38) at Rancho Cucamonga Quakes (80-56, 39-29)

RHP Kyle Tyler (3-0, 2.35 ERA) vs. RHP Andre Jackson (3-1, 3.69 ERA)

**UPCOMING GAMES AND PROBABILITIES**

**TODAY'S GAME:** This afternoon is game three of the final regular-season series of the year, a four-game battle with the Los Angeles Angels' Cal League affiliate, the Inland Empire 66ers. Today is also the second-to-last Postgame Kids Run the Bases, presented by The Smile Generation. The regular season wraps tomorrow and then the Quakes take a day off, before opening the playoffs on Wednesday.

**VS INLAND EMPIRE:** The game today with Inland Empire marks the 29th out of 30 matches between these two clubs. Furthermore, this will be the 13th out of 14 games to be played at LoanMart Field. So far in 2019, Rancho has had their way with the Sixers, taking 19 out of the 28 previous matchups. The Quakes strung together an 11-game win streak at San Manuel Stadium, before watching it come to an end last Monday night. However, Rancho is only 6-6 at home against Inland, after last night's loss.

**TROUBLE WITH THE SIXERS:** The Quakes (80-56, 39-29) dropped a third consecutive game head-to-head with the Sixers (56-81, 30-38), losing by a final score of 5-1 on Saturday night. To open up the series, Rancho has recorded exactly five hits in each of their two losses. The third Rancho run of the night came via a Brandon Montgomery RBI single in the bottom of the third. A huge reason for the Rancho struggles was 66ers’ starter Travis Herrin. Herrin (5-6) grabbed a win, spinning seven innings of one-run (unearned) baseball, with seven strikeouts, five hits allowed and no walks. Austin Hamilton (6-5), making a second straight start against Inland, got roughed up again. He took the loss due to 3.2 innings of work and five earned runs on seven hits.

**BACK-TO-BACK... AGAIN:** The win on Thursday night for the Quakes clinched the second-half crown. That marks back-to-back back-to-back seasons. They won both the first half and the second half South titles in the championship year of 2018 as well. Rancho’s victory officially brought the overall records of the next two teams on full display. Lake Elsinore defeated Lancaster on Friday at The Diamond, securing the South Division Wild Card. It’s the Storm’s first trip to the postseason since 2014, as they’ll host Rancho Cucamonga in one game and two in the best-of-five, starting on Wednesday. They last won it all in 2011. U.P. North, Visalia won Friday to wrap up the second half crown, but the North Wild Card is tight, with San Jose leading Modesto by a half-game.

**LAUNCH ANGLE & PUNCHOUTS:** Dillon Paulson’s home run in the eighth inning of Tuesday’s win was Rancho’s 161st home run of the year, which is Rancho’s second-highest single-season total in franchise history. Last year, the Quakes set the bar high with a franchise-setting 202 home runs. Starling Heredia’s round-tripper on Friday gives them 163 on the year. Another record that Rancho shattered was the Cal League’s strikeout record by an entire pitching staff, recently held by the 1970 Bakersfield Dodgers. The Quakes’ 1,472 punchouts on the year has since broken that mark, while Modesto is also right behind them at 1,458.

**CONSISTENT, CONSISTENTLY GOOD:** First-year Skipper Mark Kertenian has officially led his ball club to a fifth consecutive winning month to open up his career with Rancho. Wednesday night’s victory pushed the Quakes to a 15-10 record in the month of August, securing a winning month throughout every month of the season. Rancho has now won 12 of their last 18 games overall.

**RANCHO REPRESENTATION:** As expected, the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes were well represented when this year’s “End of Year” Cal League Awards were announced. Three members of the 19 club were named to the Postseason All-Star Team, as Devin Mann, Donovan Casey and Jeter Downs got the honors. The only one out of three still with the club, has hit .282 with 19 HR and 63 RBI in 107 games. Downs, called up to AA Tulsa on August 6th, he notched a .280 clip with 20 HR and 65 RBI in 100 games. Downs, called up to AA Tulsa in late August, had a .269 average to go along with 19 HR and 75 RBI in 107 games.

**ANDRE JACKSON:** Right-hander Andre Jackson will come off the Injured List today, taking the open spot on the roster that was occupied by RHP Sven Schueller, who was transferred to Double-A Tulsa on Saturday. Jackson will be making his 15th start for the Quakes since being called up from Great Lakes of the Midwest League, where he was a mid-season All-Star, going 4-1 with a 2.23 ERA over ten starts. Has not pitched since he went one inning and took a no-decision in a start vs Modesto here at LoanMart Field on August 13th. This will be his third start against Inland Empire this year, as his 0-0 with a 2.79 ERA over his first two starts, spanning 9.2 innings. Jackson was a 12th round pick by the Dodgers in the 2017 draft out of the University of Utah.

**KYLE TYLER:** RHP Kyle Tyler will go for Inland Empire tonight, as he makes his fourth overall appearance, and second start of the season. In his last outing, Tyler made his first Cal League start, coming against Lancaster. At the Hangar, the right-hander allowed just two runs (one earned) on six hits over 6.2 innings. The Oklahoma City, OK native grabbed his third straight win at the High-A level, and his fourth straight victory dating back to his time in Burlington (Low A). Tyler was drafted in the 20th round of the 2018 draft by the Angels out of University of Oklahoma.

**TURN ON THE OLDERadio:** Listen to “The Voice of the Quakes” Mike Lindskog and Toph Buzzard as they call every game of the 2019 season on NewsTalk AM1290, or Online at rcquakes.com via the iHeart Radio App or TuneIn Radio App.

**WRAPPPING IT UP:** The Quakes will play at 2:05pm on Monday to wrap up the regular season. Kids will get to “Run the Bases” after the game, thanks to Smile Generation. Rancho will be back to LoanMart Field for Game 3 in the Best-of-5 South Division Finals, on Friday night against the Lake Elsinore Storm. 1,500 fans will take home a Clayton Kershaw Bobblehead on Friday, thanks to U.S. Bank. Get tickets at rcquakes.com or by calling (909) 481-5000...Go Quakes!