

Zephyrs sweep games against Spearfish

Sanchez, Moreno both register eighth win on the mound

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SPEARFISH, S.D. — Joe Sanchez and Eric Moreno both notched their eighth pitching wins of the season in the WESTCO Zephyrs senior legion baseball team's doubleheader sweep at Spearfish, S.D., on Saturday afternoon.

Sanchez improved to a perfect 8-0 on the mound after the Zephyrs rallied from a five-run deficit to win game one 6-5. After allowing five runs in the first two innings, the lefthander finished with a flurry by tossing five straight scoreless innings and retiring the final 11 hitters he faced in a row.

In game two, Moreno scattered four hits and struck out four in the Zephyrs' 13-3 win. The win improved Moreno to 8-2 on the season.

Zephyrs coach Mark Moran credited both pitchers for outstanding performances on the hill.

"It's been quite a while since we've had two guys with eight wins and it's not even the Fourth of July yet. They've done a great job for us," Moran said. "Sanchez pitched great the last five innings of the first game. He gave them almost nothing and retired the last 11 guys he faced. Then Eric pitched great in the second game and we played well behind him.

"Offensively, our guys swung the bats very well. It was just a much better effort all around compared to Thursday night's games. We pitched well, defended well and hit well. It was fun to see."

The sweep improved WESTCO to 26-11 on the season. The Zephyrs have now won six of their last seven games.

The one-run game in Saturday's opener was the third played between the teams this season. Both teams earned one-run wins back on June 11 at Cleveland Field in Scottsbluff.

Things didn't look good for the Zephyrs early on though as Spearfish raced out to a 5-0 lead after two innings of play. But WESTCO answered with a four-run third inning before scoring single runs in both the fourth and fifth innings to storm back.

"In game one our guys did a great job of scraping together some runs in the middle innings to get the lead," Moran said. "The way the first game started, I was hoping we could at least split because we were down 5-0 and they had a tough kid on the mound. Our kids just did a good job of battling to come back and win that first game."

The Zephyrs pounded out 12 hits in the contest. Zac Rada went 2-for-4 and drove in a pair of runs. Also finishing with two hits each for WESTCO were Moreno, Tre Meier and Tyler Patrick. Meier and Patrick both finished with doubles, while Connor Wilburn walked twice and scored two runs.

On the mound, Sanchez allowed seven hits and struck out four.

In the second game, the Zephyrs busted open a 2-2 game in the third with three runs. WESTCO went on to tally five runs in the fourth, one in the fifth and two more in the sixth to pull away.

The Zephyrs totaled 16 hits.

Goodwin provided the biggest offensive highlight by blasting his 12th home run of the season. He's now just one away from tying the single-season record. Goodwin finished the game 2-for-3 with three runs batted in and two runs scored.

Sanchez went 3-for-3 with two runs scored. Rada, Patrick, Moreno and Dan Harshbarger all added two hits each. Moreno had a triple, a double and drove in three. Also finishing with doubles for the Zephyrs were Goodwin, Meier, Patrick, Rada and Sanchez.

The Zephyrs finished the doubleheader with 10 extra-base hits.

WESTCO will face two more tough challenges today in a doubleheader at Greeley, Colo., against Greeley Gojo Sports.

"It will be tough," Moran said. "Greeley always is one of the best teams we play and our pitching will be a little bit thin. We'll probably throw at least three or four different guys for a couple innings each and see what we can do."

After today's games, the Zephyrs will travel to Alliance for a single game against the Spartans on Tuesday before playing host to Chadron on Wednesday. WESTCO will conclude its regular-season schedule next weekend when it hosts the Scottsbluff Screen Printing Tournament.

Game One

Zephyrs 004 110 0 — 6 12 2

Spearfish 230 000 0 — 5 7 1

WP — Sanchez (8-0). LP — Hamilton.

2B — Meier, Patrick, Darling, Bridges.

Game Two

Zephyrs (26-11) 203 512 — 13 16 2

Spearfish (20-22) 200 100 — 3 4 2

WP — Moreno (8-2). LP — Lewis.

HR — Goodwin. 3B — Moreno. 2B — Goodwin, Meier, Moreno, Patrick, Rada, Sanchez, Lewis (2).