

## Visalia Rawhide Lead the Series 2-0 Heading to Visalia

SAN JOSE, CA- Rawhide defeat the San Jose Giants 5-3 to take Game 2 of the Northern Division Championship Series. Rawhide scored in the first inning for the second straight game. Alek Thomas doubled on a shallow fly ball to right-center field. He advanced to third on a Luis Alejandro Basabe ground out to shortstop. Eduardo Diaz reached on a dropped third strike and Thomas scored on the passed ball by Hamlet Marte.

The next inning, the Rawhide extended their lead to three. Max Murphy led off the inning by singling to right field and he scored off a Jose Herrera wall-ball double. Herrera advanced to third on Jorge Perez's single to left field and came all the way around to score when left fielder Diego Rincones bobbled the ball. Rawhide led 3-0 after one and half innings of play.

San Jose Giants scored their first run of the game in the bottom of the second. Courtney Hawkins doubled off Rawhide starter Bryan Valdez to begin the inning and Manuel Geraldo drove him in by doubling down the left field line. In the bottom of the third inning, Kyle McPherson and Shane Matheny led off with back-to-back base hits. Rincones grounded into a double play leaving McPherson on third with two outs. David Villar drove him in with a base hit to left. After three innings, Rawhide led 3-2.

Diaz blasted a solo shot over the left field wall in the sixth inning for his first hit in the postseason. San Jose did not take long to answer back. New Rawhide pitcher Jose Cuas found his back against the wall immediately, giving up three consecutive base hits before recording an out. With bases loaded, Heath Quinn grounded into a double play scoring Rincones from third base. Geraldo lined out to shortstop to end the inning and Cuas got out of the jam by only allowing one earned run. Rawhide led 4-3 after six innings.

Cole Bartlett pitched the seventh and eighth for Visalia. He stranded two runners in the seventh after giving up a lead-off walk and hitting a batter. In the eighth, he had bases loaded with one out and did not allow a run to score to keep the Rawhide ahead by one.

In the ninth, Herrera drove in Yoel Yanqui for his second RBI of the game to extend Visalia's lead to 5-3. Breckin Williams pitched the bottom of the ninth for the second straight night. He struck out the side to earn his second save in as many nights.

Rawhide are 2-0 in the series and need to win one of the next three games to advance to the championship. The final games of the series will be played in Visalia at Recreation Park.