

## Nuts ride strong pitching to beat Ports 4-1

Stockton, CA. – Using an opener for the first time this season, four Modesto Nuts pitchers combined to give up just four hits and beat the Stockton Ports 4-1 on Friday night at Banner Island Ballpark.

Entering Friday's game with 147 career appearances, Matt Walker made the first start of his career, opening for the Nuts and retiring the Ports in order in the first inning with a strikeout. Austin Hutchison, originally scheduled to start, entered the game in the second and picked up his first win of the season, working six innings while giving up just one run and striking out eight.

In relief of Hutchison, Sam Delaplaine pitched a perfect eighth inning, and Joey Gerber picked up his fourth save of the year, setting the Ports down in order in the bottom of the ninth.

Jack Larsen scored two runs and collected two hits, including his fourth home run of the season, a solo shot to left field in the top of the first. Joe Rizzo had three hits and scored a run and raised his batting average to a California League-leading .340.

The Nuts will continue this three-game series in Stockton on Saturday night. First pitch against the Ports is scheduled for 7:10pm. Coverage on ModestoNuts.com will start at 7:00 p.m. Listen live online on your phone, tablet or PC by clicking [HERE](#).