Charlotte’s lead survived four close losses

Charlotte Colonels beat | 1981-08-31 | Games through 1981-08-30

Six runs separated Charlotte from Miami across four games. The Colonels lost 4–2, 4–3, 5–3 and 6–5. On August 30 they had the game tied in the bottom of the ninth before Pat Watters ended it with a single. The 1980 division winner heads home still first, with its lead down to a game and a half.

Tampa Bay and Atlanta explain why Charlotte still has that lead. The Colonels won four of their first six, adding a game to their August 19 margin before the sweep. In Miami, Dabir Aly struck out ten in the opener and the Colonels scored twice. Miguel Salazar had 17 hits over the full challenge. There was individual production on a trip where four short scores in succession mattered more.

Charlotte opens September at home against Chicago, itself a game out in the Central. Miami comes to Charlotte for four September 24–27. Those dates put the advantage back in the Colonels’ hands if they can carry a lead to the rematch.