Detroit’s title defense reaches San Francisco six back

Detroit Dukes beat | 1981-08-31 | Games through 1981-08-30

Detroit scored 11 in its only win of the challenge and four runs in four games at Dallas. The 11–3 win in Chicago came after two August 21 losses. Minneapolis then won twice in Detroit before the Dukes went to Dallas. A team that had begun the challenge one game out ended it six back.

Alex Diaz had 14 hits and six walks over the ten games. Against Dallas, Detroit never scored more than two in a game. Both facts are worth carrying into September. A productive line from one hitter did not turn those four games, and the champions also lost their place at the top of the wild-card standings.

Detroit opens at San Francisco, a club two places ahead of it on the wild-card line behind Miami, with Los Angeles also between them. The next stop is Charlotte. Both opponents have races of their own to protect, and Detroit needs to start taking decisions from teams in front of it.