The Cobras won 14 innings and gained no ground on Phoenix

Los Angeles Cobras beat | 1981-08-31 | Games through 1981-08-30

Fernando Domenech had four hits in the 14-inning win that completed Los Angeles's sweep of San Diego. The Cobras scored ten against Phoenix next. Five straight wins were enough to get their attention in the West. Over the last five, only the 7–3 win in San Francisco went their way.

Ramon Reyes homered twice in the finale against the Warriors. Los Angeles still lost 10–4 and finished two back of Phoenix, the same gap it had on August 19. A six-win challenge left a clear September assignment. There are runs to be had, but the opening sweep cannot stand in for wins against the two teams ahead.

The Cobras host Tampa Bay next and have six games left against Phoenix. Four are in Phoenix to end the season. San Francisco visits Los Angeles for four in September before those final games arrive.