Miami made all four count

Miami Hurricanes beat | 1981-08-31 | Games through 1981-08-30

The last out of the Charlotte series never came. Pat Watters singled with two gone in the ninth, Dwayne Postell scored, and Miami won its fourth straight game against the division leader. On August 20 the question was whether Miami could get close enough that four wins would give it first. Six games later the answer was still no. The Hurricanes needed those four just to get within a game and a half.

Atlanta took three of the opening four. Two Miami wins over Tampa Bay followed, by 10–3 and 9–1. Then Addie de Ruijter, acquired from Phoenix on July 29, drove in all four runs in the first game against Charlotte. The newcomers were part of the August 20 question. De Ruijter gave Miami a concrete answer in a game with a direct bearing on first place.

Miami now owns the NBC wild-card lead by half a game over Chicago. At 71 wins it is within two of its entire 1980 total. Its next series is in Phoenix, where de Ruijter’s former club leads the West. The return series with Charlotte begins September 24 on the Colonels’ field.