Minneapolis made three one-run games count

Minneapolis Blizzard beat | 1981-08-31 | Games through 1981-08-30

A 17–3 loss on August 20 could have set the terms for Dallas’s four days in Minneapolis. The Blizzard won the next three. Jose Varela worked eight scoreless in the 1–0 win in ten innings, and Minneapolis put ten runs on Dallas the next day. It went on to win twice in Detroit, once in 13 innings.

Varela pitched eight again August 28, this time allowing two earned runs against Chicago. The score was still tied in the 14th when Hirotoshi Nishimoto’s fly brought Ricky Thompson home. That was the Blizzard’s third one-run win of the challenge. Six wins left them the same eleven and a half games behind Dallas. They mattered to the opponents who had to count them.

Minneapolis goes to San Diego on September 1 with 32 games still listed. Follow the rotation through the opening series, with Varela’s two long starts giving the next set of outings a benchmark.