

Big 6th inning propels Lancers to 7th straight win & sets up series with NM State for title:

	R:	H:	E:
Chicago State (10-37, 5-19 WAC):	0-0-0-1-0-0-0-0-2=3	7	3
California Baptist University (33-18, 17-7 WAC):	1-0-0-0-0-8-0-0-X=9	9	2

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Riverside, CA (Totman Stadium)-

A little less than three months ago the 2019 season dawned on CBU baseball coach Gary Adcock & team with questions aplenty to answer. Could California Baptist University compete right away in division one? Would the Lancers find immediate success in Western Athletic Conference play like basketball & volleyball have? With a 9-0 start to the regular season question one's answer was a resounding yes. After Sunday afternoon's 9-3 victory over Chicago State question two also can be answered with a yes. They've given themselves a chance to win the WAC regular season crown next weekend in Las Cruces and go into that series one game behind New Mexico State.

Adcock remarked afterwards "Roughly ten days ago we sat down and talked about finishing the season as well as we started it. After the 9-0 start we had been hovering around .500 and I'm proud of these guys for finishing this campaign as hot as we started it. Good teams take advantage of errors (Chicago State had two in the sixth, three for the day) and that's exactly what we did today in stretching the inning out."

It was senior day at Totman Stadium & quite fittingly a senior had the game's first hit. Lancers second baseman Luke Navigato led off the first inning with a double to left field. He was scored on an RBI groundout by starting pitcher Andrew Bash who might've also made his last home start on Sunday afternoon. The redshirt junior from Palm Desert could possibly be taken in next month's MLB draft. John Glenn's groundout limited the damage to just a lone run.

In the Lancers third inning Harrison Spohn led off with a double to left field. Chad Castillo hit a one out single to right field which should've give the Lancers a bases loaded and one out situation. However Angelo Capolupo was caught in a rundown for CBU's second out of the frame and that threat was erased by an inning ending groundout.

A walk and single to center field by Reggie Brock Jr. and Tyler Lowe respectively gave Chicago State runners on first and second with one out in the Cougars fourth inning. Cole Hansel's RBI single tied the game at a run apiece before Bash struck out Kilian Bloat to escape further harm.

Navigato had another double to center field & Castillo walked with two outs in the Lancers fifth inning but both runners were stranded as another groundout stranded runners on for CBU.

CBU broken open a tied game in their half of the sixth inning. Eleven Lancers went to the plate against three Chicago State pitchers and scored eight runs on five hits. John Glenn provided the big blow with a three run homer to left center field which just barely carried the wall.

Rory Smith got aboard on a fielder's choice bunt attempt as Glenn was called out at third base trying to advance. Then Billy Rockefeller made up for an earlier outfield error with a RBI single thru the right side of Chicago State's infield. That scored Ryan Mota who had a single to left field giving California Baptist University a 2-1 lead. Spohn then laid down a bunt which caused the new Cougars pitcher (Anthony Leedle) to slip while attempting to field it. From his backside Leedle attempted to make a throw and missed his first baseman resulting in an error. Smith scored on the play making it 3-1 Lancers. Rockefeller advanced to third and was scored on Capolupo's RBI groundout giving CBU the three run cushion at 4-1. Navigato and Castillo had back to back RBI singles which made it 6-1 California Baptist University. Bash was subsequently walked setting the stage for Glenn's three run homer which came against Chicago State's third pitcher of the inning (Edward Kang). When all was tallied up the Lancers lead was 9-1 after six innings.

Navigato remarked afterwards "There were definitely some unknowns going into this year about our ability to compete at the division one level. However we felt that if we worked hard throughout the fall and played our game we could compete here. All we wanted was a shot at the regular season title since we're postseason ineligible and we've given ourselves an opportunity to accomplish that goal next weekend. This was a great way to go out at home seeing all of the seniors get to play like that today."

Chicago State got two runs back in their half of the ninth but by then the damage had been done as CBU won 9-3 to set up next weekend's showdown with New Mexico State for a WAC title.

Chicago State Notables:

LP>>Yunis Halim 5 ⅓ IP, 6 hits, 4 runs, 3 BB's, 0 K's
Cole Hansel & Zack Bailey>>2-4 with an RBI

California Baptist University Notables:

WP>>Andrew Bash 6 ⅓ IP, 3 hits, 7 K's, 1 BB
Luke Navigato>>2-5 with an RBI
Chad Castillo>>2-3 with an RBI

