THE BEACON REPORT

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Tyler torches Regents; Beacons advance in six

BY **MARTY SOWERBY** · THE BEACON REPORT

Thirty-one runs scored, 31 allowed. A run differential of zero over six games projects to a coin flip, and Boston won the series four games to two. The two losses were 10-7 and 16-1, which is 26 of the 31 runs allowed in two games. The four wins were 3-0, 8-1, 4-1 and 8-3, five runs allowed in four games. That is the season's shape in miniature: lose big, win often, and leave the run-differential model filing complaints.

Win probability added says the series belonged to two men, and by almost the same amount. Edgar Tyler finished at plus-0.74 and Juan Hernandez at plus-0.73. Nobody else on either club cleared plus-0.35.

Tyler went 13-for-26 with three triples, three home runs, nine runs batted in and eight runs scored, and was Player of the Game in Games 4 and 5. Two of the triples came in Game 1, which ties the Ice Conference record for a postseason game. In Game 5 he homered in the first and the seventh and singled in a run in between, and Boston won 4-1. He is 26 and was paid $500,000 this year, and he is eligible for arbitration this winter with three years of service. Arbitration is where these six games get priced.

Hernandez started Games 2 and 6. In Game 2, in Cincinnati, after the 10-7 loss, he went eight innings, allowed three hits and struck out 11, and Boston won 3-0. In Game 6 he allowed two runs in five and two-thirds and Boston won the series. Thirteen and two-thirds innings, two earned runs, 15 strikeouts, two walks. Tyler Jackson's one start, Game 4, was six and two-thirds innings and one run. Bill Ramirez gave up three home runs in Game 1 and one in Game 5, and won Game 5.

Two weeks ago I asked whether the ninth inning would go to one man or a committee without Nick Luke. It went to Danny Stanescu. He got both save chances, recorded eight outs and did not allow a hit.

The rest of the bullpen is where the two losses came from. In Game 1 the score was 6-5 Boston going to the bottom of the sixth. Konrad Palaszewski gave up a two-run home run to Matt Kopacka and later left with an inflamed elbow that will cost him about eight weeks, and J.R. Cannon gave up three runs in the eighth, two of them on a home run by Pat Colonna that the box score has at 498 feet. In Game 3 five relievers allowed 13 runs, four of them by Anthony Anderson in one-third of an inning. The bullpen allowed 19 earned runs in 18 and a third innings over the series, and 18 of them came in the two losses.

The lineup reached base at .350 and hit .264. Luis Martinez, from Toronto at the deadline, went 7-for-21 with two home runs and five walks. Troy Hutchinson's three-run home run started Game 4, and Bryan Moorman's three-run home run in the sixth inning of Game 6 made it 6-2. With runners in scoring position Boston went 17-for-65, .262. Over the last two months of the season it was .270 in those spots.

Cincinnati hit 13 home runs to Boston's eight, five of them by Colonna. Boston finished 26th in home runs this season. Boston won the series on the bases instead: it reached at .350, and Cincinnati at .294.

This is the first series this franchise has won since 2018, when it was still in Lehigh Valley. It is also the first time it has beaten this one. The Regents were the Atlanta Smashers in 2002 and 2003, when they beat the Scrapples in both of the semifinals this franchise has ever played.

The matchup: Baltimore.

Format is 2-3-2: Baltimore on the 18th and 19th, here the 21st through the 23rd, Baltimore again on the 25th and 26th if needed. Baltimore won the season series 8-4 and swept Rochester, allowing five runs. The clubs have met once in October, in the 2012 quarterfinal, when Baltimore was the Washington Generals and this franchise was the Lehigh Valley Scrapples, and Washington won in four.

Luke's five weeks for the oblique run out about now. Palaszewski is done for the year.

Run differential for the series: zero. Record: 4-2. Since May I have filed this team under regression, pending. It is October 17, and it is still pending.