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## And That's a Wrap

*Thunder sweep Fightins with 12-2 win to advance to Eastern League Championship Series*

(TRENTON, NJ) – The 2019 Fightin Phils season started almost like how it began back in April: with cold and wet conditions at the ballpark. From that 4-0 win over the Sea Dogs in Portland on Opening Day to game #142 at ARM & HAMMER Park, the Fightins had a tremendous year and led the Eastern League with 80 wins during the regular season. Unfortunately, that success did not carry over into the Eastern Division Championship Series, and the Thunder eliminated them for the third time since 2012. On Friday, Trenton used three Yankees on Major League rehab assignments, and cruised to a 12-2 win to finish off the three-game sweep.

Just several days after beating the Thunder in their own building, Phillies 40-man member **Adonis Medina** allowed a first-inning run on three straight singles from **Thairo Estrada**, **Ben Ruta**, and **Chris Gittens**. In the top of the second, **Darick Hall** crushed a leadoff home run to center off **Luis Severino**, who got the start for the second stop on his rehab assignment. From there, the Thunder poured it on, chasing Medina after five straight one-out base hits in the bottom of the inning to break the tie and go ahead 5-1.

**Jeff Singer** relieved Medina (0-1) and put the first two Thunder batters on with a single and a walk in the home half of the third. **Alexander Palma's** one-out single loaded the bases, and after a groundout from **Max Burt** back to the mound, Singer looked like he had the final out of the inning when he got **Rashad Crawford** to swing through an 0-2 pitch. However, the ball rolled away from catcher **Jack Conley**, and all the runners moved up to bring across the sixth Thunder run. Estrada then cleared the bases with a 3-RBI base hit off **Grant Dyer**, tying a Thunder postseason record with five runs batted in to put the game out of reach at 9-1. Ruta then sprayed an opposite field single into left for a 10-1 advantage, which set the tone for the rest of the evening.

Severino was knocked out of the game on his 50<sup>th</sup> pitch when **Cornelius Randolph** smashed a leadoff single into right in the fourth. The two-time All-Star finished up with five hits allowed, whiffing five Fightins in the process. **Matt Wivinis** got the first call from the bullpen, and promptly retired the side in order in what was an impressive series from Thunder relievers. **Dellin Betances** worked the fifth in his first game-action of 2019, getting a strikeout while also hitting **Jack Conley** with a pitch and walking **Alec Bohm**.

The Thunder pushed across their last two runs against Phillies rehabber **Edubray Ramos** in the bottom of the fifth. Ruta and Gittens pushed the lead to 12-1 with fielder's choice groundouts, at which point **Julian Garcia** (two innings) and **Aaron Brown** (one inning) combined on the last three frames without allowing another run.

*PROUD DOUBLE A AFFILIATE OF THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES SINCE 1967*

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Reading's last run of the season came in the top of the eighth against righthander **Brooks Kriske**, who surrendered **Mickey Moniak's** second single to start the inning. After advancing to second on a wild pitch, Moniak later came around to score on a two-out single from **Nick Maton**.

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