

Matt Minik blasted a game-winning, two-run home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Nacho Mama's a dramatic comeback win over Dolphin Tiki.

It was a classic battle with several lead changes and 52 hits combined for the game. Tiki drew first blood with a five-run first inning featuring run-scoring hits by Dave St. Angelo, Mike Faria, Craig Cunningham, and Nick Jacullo. Nacho's answered with five of their own on a two-run single by Carl Parker, followed by a Jeff Kaczka single, a John Gross sacrifice fly, and a Paul Kramer single.

The game remained tight until the bottom of the fourth inning when Nacho's scored five times to extend their lead to 15-9. Key hits in that uprising were a Kramer solo homer, a two-run single by Paul Nussbaum, and a run-scoring hit by Parker.

Undaunted, Tiki continued to chip away, tying the score at 16 on a two-run triple by Jon Thomas and a sacrifice fly by Sal Tidona. Then in the top of the ninth, Tiki took back the lead 20-19 on a two-run double by St. Angelo, which set up Minik's heroics in the bottom half of the inning.

Minik finished the game with four hits and three RBIs, Kramer had three hits and two RBIs, and Brett Bartholomaeus also had three hits for the winners. Other RBI leaders included Parker (four), Nussbaum (three), and Kaczka and Eric Jeanotte (two each).

Tiki was led by St. Angelo (four hits, three RBIs), Jeff Robinson (four hits, two RBIs), Cunningham (three hits, two RBIs), Chris Flynn (three hits including a triple, two RBIs), Mike Faria (three hits), Thomas (three RBIs), Jacullo (three RBIs), and Dan Harrar (two RBIs).

With the victory, Nacho's advances to the championship round to face unbeaten Salty Dog. Meanwhile, the heartbreaking loss ended the season for Dolphin Tiki.

MARCO DIVISION

Monday, March 17, 2025

Taking advantage of windy conditions by hitting flyballs while also benefitting from Sand Bar's inconsistent fielding and anxious swings at the plate, Joey's flew to its first win of the post-season tournament.

Trailing 5-4 as it came to bat in the bottom of third inning, Joey's pulled ahead for good, in part by hitting the ball in the air. The rally started with a wind aided double followed by a wind-blown run scoring single that tied the game at 5-5. Pitcher Ed Kingsbury (three hits and three RBIs for the game), then laced a line drive that also waffled in the wind before falling safely, scoring another run, good for a 6-5 Joey's lead. Bill Thompson (two RBIs) then capped the four-run rally when he smacked a single into an outfield gap, plating one run upping Joey's lead to 7-5. Up 8-5 in the bottom of the fifth inning, Joey's sealed the win with five more runs, three of which scored courtesy of an error by Sand Bar, one of six for the Sand Men on the day. Jim Fairbanks contributed to Joey's offense with two RBIs.