



Hurst Twirls Complete Game as Boston Blanks Chicago

BOSTON, April 18, 1986 — Bruce Hurst tossed a masterful nine-inning complete game Friday night at Fenway Park, scattering four hits and striking out eight as the Boston '86 club cruised to a 6-0 victory over Chicago '86 in front of 33,583 fans.

Hurst (2-0) was in complete control all evening, walking just one and lowering his ERA to a sparkling 1.71. He needed only 110 pitches to work through the Chicago lineup, inducing eight groundouts to complement his eight strikeouts and never allowing the visitors to threaten seriously after the first inning.

Boston's bats got to Chicago starter Tom Seaver early and often. Boston jumped out in front in the first inning, plating three runs, and never looked back. The offense was paced by first baseman Bill Buckner, who went 5-for-5 with three RBI, and designated hitter Don Baylor, who added three hits, an RBI, and the game's only home run — a second-inning blast that helped stake Hurst to an early cushion.

Dwight Evans also had a big night at the plate, collecting three hits and scoring twice, while Wade Boggs chipped in a base hit and an RBI double. Boston tacked on two more runs in the fifth before Baylor's RBI single in the seventh capped the scoring.

Seaver (0-2) struggled through six innings, allowing five runs — four earned — on eight hits while striking out four. Reliever Ben Dawley couldn't stem the tide either, surrendering a run of his own over two innings of relief as Chicago's bullpen finished with 12 hits allowed on the night.

Despite the lopsided score, Boston left plenty of runners on base, stranding 10 and going just 6-for-16 with runners in scoring position — a testament to Chicago's resilient, if ultimately futile, pitching and defense. The White Sox turned two double plays (Little-Hulett-Bonilla) to keep the deficit from growing larger, while Boston countered with three of their own, including two from the Romero-Barrett-Buckner combination.

Offensively, Chicago managed just four hits, with Bobby Bonilla and Harold Baines each contributing a base knock. Wayne Tolleson also reached with a single but was charged with the lone Chicago error of the night. The White Sox went hitless with runners in scoring position, going 0-for-4 in those situations and stranding three runners on base.

With the win, Hurst improved to 2-0 on the young season, while Seaver dropped to 0-2. Boston will look to carry the momentum forward as they continue their homestand at Fenway Park.

Box Score Summary:

Chicago '86 000 000 000 — 0 R, 4 H, 1 E
Boston '86 300 020 10X — 6 R, 12 H, 1 E

W: B. Hurst (2-0) | L: T. Seaver (0-2)