



2026 Athletes Unlimited Softball League Season: Game #67
Durham, North Carolina (Smith Family Stadium)

Thursday, July 16, 2026
7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT

SCORE BY INNING	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E	LOB
Bandits (15-8)	3	5	3	3	0	1	15	15	1	5
Blaze (8-14)	2	4	0	1	0	0	7	11	0	7

Winning Pitcher: Taylor McQuillin (2-3) | Losing Pitcher: Keilani Ricketts (2-5) | Save: n/a | Time of Game: 2:13

HOME RUNS	NO.	PITCHER	INN.	ROB	OUT	COUNT	LOCATION
Reese Atwood	8	Lexi Kilfoyl	1	1	0	2-1	LCF
Skylar Wallace	4	Keilani Ricketts	2	1	1	0-2	RF
Ana Gold	3	Lexi Kilfoyl	2	1	1	1-1	LCF
Dakota Kennedy	3	Odicci Alexander-Bennett	2	1	1	0-1	LF
Skylar Wallace	5	Ruby Meylan	3	2	0	3-2	LCF
Skylar Wallace	6	Emma Lemley	6	0	2	2-2	RF

The Quick Story: Infielder **Skylar Wallace** went 5-for-5 with three home runs and seven runs batted in as the Chicago Bandits (15-8) won for the 11th time in their last 12 games with a 15-7 Athletes Unlimited Softball League victory over the Carolina Blaze (8-14) in front of sold-out crowd at Smith Family Stadium on Thursday night.

Key Moment: Leading by a 3-2 margin after the first inning, the Bandits erupted for five runs in the second inning to break the game open. Wallace slammed a two-run home run down the right field line to ignite the outburst before outfielder **Morgan Zerkle** added an RBI double. Catcher **Mary Iakopo** upped the lead to 7-2 with a run-scoring single before plating the final run of the inning on a single by rookie **Jocelyn Erickson**.

BANDITS NOTES



- Chicago requested a coach's challenge in the bottom of the third inning to determine whether infielder **Aubrey Leach** was safe or out on a fielder's choice at second base ... The challenge was unsuccessful after the original call (safe) was upheld.
- Chicago also initiated a coach's challenge in the top of the fourth inning after infielder **Skylar Wallace** was called out on appeal for missing third base on a single by infielder **Sami Williams** ... The challenge was unsuccessful after the original call was upheld.
- Chicago won 4-of-5 games in the season series against Carolina, upping the Bandits' all-time series lead to 9-4 ... The Bandits and the Blaze combined to score 56 runs in the five games, including 35 runs in the two games played in Durham.
- Chicago set a new Athletes Unlimited Softball League record with its 15-run explosion on Thursday night, besting the previous mark of 14 runs set by the Talons on June 14, 2025, against the Blaze.
- Chicago also matched the AUSL season high with 15 hits ... It is the third time the Bandits have logged 15 hits in a game this season.
- Chicago scored in the first inning for the 13th time in 23 games this season ... The Bandits are now 11-2 in those games.
- The Bandits also scored the game's first run for the 13th time this season with three runs in the opening frame, improving to 11-2 in those contests.
- Chicago scored 10 or more runs for the fifth time this season, upping its record to 5-0 in those instances.
- The Bandits had five different players record a double in tonight's contest ... Chicago collected eight extra-base hits with five doubles and three home runs.
- Wallace is the first player in any Athletes Unlimited softball game to belt three home runs ... In addition to her two-run homer in the second inning, Wallace smashed a three-run shot to left field in the third inning before her solo homer in the seventh inning gave Chicago a 15-7 advantage.
- Wallace also becomes the first player in AUSL regular season history to score four runs in a game ... She also tied the AUSL single-game record with seven runs batted in ... Blaze infielder **Baylee Klingler** set the mark with seven RBI against the Talons on June 14, 2025, before Williams drove in seven runs against Portland on July 2.
- Wallace became the second player in AUSL regular season history to register five hits in a game ... Blaze infielder **Aubrey Leach** went 5-for-5 against the Bandits on July 22, 2025, at Parkway Bank Sports Complex.
- Wallace finished 9-for-10 with four home runs and nine runs batted in during the two-game series against Carolina ... Wallace ran her on-base streak to 13 consecutive games.

- Williams, who has hit safely in four of her last five games, authored her team-leading 11th multi-hit game of the season after logging a pair of hits against Carolina on Wednesday night ... She drove in a run with a double in the first inning before adding a single during the fourth inning.
- Outfielder **Morgan Zerkle** has hit safely in six straight games after recording an infield single in the first inning ... Zerkle added a double in the second to capture her seventh multi-hit performance.
- Infielder **Ailana Agbayani** recorded her second-straight two-hit performance ... Agbayani finished the series against the Blaze 4-for-8 at the plate.
- Catcher **Jocelyn Erickson** has driven in a run in three consecutive games with an RBI in the first inning.
- Pitcher **Taylor McQuillin** raised her record to 2-3 after conceding one earned run on three hits with two strikeouts in 3.1 innings.

Bandits' Next Game: Saturday, July 18 vs. Utah (2 p.m. ET/1 p.m. CT)

BLAZE NOTES



- Carolina requested a coach's challenge in the top of the first inning to determine whether the ball made contact with the bat twice on outfielder **Morgan Zerkle's** infield single ... The challenge was unsuccessful after the original call (one contact) was upheld.
- The Blaze played in front of a sell-out crowd at Smith Family Stadium for the first time this season, marking the 14th sellout in the AUSL this season.
- Carolina entered this week's series with a perfect 6-0 record when scoring five or more runs, but lost both contests against the Bandits after scoring a total of 13 runs.
- Carolina recorded double-digit hits for the third time this season, including the first time since collecting 10 hits against Texas on June 15 ... The Blaze's 15 hits were a season high.
- The Blaze dropped to 3-1 this season when hitting multiple home runs ... It marked the first time Carolina registered multiple home runs since slugging a pair of homers at Oklahoma City on June 29.
- Catcher **Reese Atwood** moved into a tie for the league lead with her eighth home run of the season on a two-run shot in the first inning ... Atwood authored her fifth multi-hit performance of the season after going 2-for-4 with a run scored.
- Infielder **Jenna Laird** has recorded a hit in four of her last five games with a single in the second inning.
- Infielder **Ana Gold** added her third home run of the season with a two-run shot in the second inning.
- Infielder **Aubrey Leach** has successfully reached base in 19 of Carolina's 22 games with a single in the third inning.
- Utility player **Valerie Cagle** collected her third multi-hit performance with a pair of singles.
- Outfielder **Dakota Kennedy** tallied her fifth multi-hit effort, including her second three-hit game this season ... All three of Kennedy's hits went for extra-bases with two doubles and a home run.
- Pitcher **Keilani Ricketts** dropped to 2-5 on the season after allowing eight earned runs on eight hits in 1.2 innings.
- Pitchers **Ruby Meylan** and **Emma Lemley** split time in relief ... Meylan surrendered six earned runs with two strikeouts in 2.1 innings while Lemley closed with one earned run and one strikeout in 2.0 innings.

Blaze's Next Game: Saturday, July 18 vs. Oklahoma City (4 p.m. ET/3 p.m. CT)