



2026 Athletes Unlimited Softball League Season: Game #71
Durham, North Carolina (Smith Family Stadium)

Saturday, July 18, 2026
4 p.m. ET/3 p.m. CT

SCORE BY INNING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		R	H	E	LOB
Spark (12-11)	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	8		12	12	0	8
Blaze (8-15)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0		4	12	1	11

Winning Pitcher: Jailyn Ford (3-3) | Losing Pitcher: Karlyn Pickens (4-6) | Save: n/a | Time of Game: 2:27

HOME RUNS	NO.	PITCHER	INN.	ROB	OUT	COUNT	LOCATION
Maya Brady	9	Karlyn Pickens	4	0	0	1-2	LCF
Sydney Romero	9	Karlyn Pickens	4	0	0	0-1	RF
Delanie Wisz	7	Karlyn Pickens	4	0	0	1-2	RCF
Ana Gold	4	Alana Vawter	4	0	0	1-1	LF
Alyssa Brito	3	Jailyn Ford	5	1	1	1-0	LF
Maya Brady	10	Keilani Ricketts	7	0	0	1-1	RF

The Quick Story: Utility player **Maya Brady** tallied three hits, including a pair of solo home runs, and scored twice as the Oklahoma City Spark (12-11) remained in contention for an Athletes Unlimited Softball League postseason berth with a 12-4 victory in eight innings over the Carolina Blaze (8-15) in front of a sold-out crowd at Smith Family Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Key Moment: After Brady forced extra innings with a solo home run in the top of the seventh inning, Oklahoma City scored eight times on five hits and a Carolina error in the eighth inning to secure the comeback victory.

Homer Happy: Oklahoma City and Carolina combined to hit six home runs in Saturday's matinee, tying the AUSL single-game record. It is the fourth time this season a game has featured six homers.

Homer Happy, Part II: Oklahoma City belted four home runs in its win over Carolina on Saturday, giving the Spark 38 home runs in 23 games this season. The Spark's 38 home runs match the AUSL single-season team record established by the Bandits last summer.

Working Overtime: Saturday marks the first time in Athletes Unlimited Softball League history where multiple extra-inning games have been played on the same calendar day. Chicago edged Utah by a 2-1 margin before Oklahoma City's 12-4 triumph at Carolina.

SPARK NOTES



- Oklahoma City requested a coach's challenge in the bottom of the second inning to review whether infielder **Ana Gold** was hit with a batted ball during her at-bat ... The challenge was unsuccessful after the original call (no contact) was upheld.
- Oklahoma City played its first extra-inning game of the season on Saturday.
- The Spark improved to an impressive 8-2 in games decided by five runs or more this season ... They also upped their record to 3-0 when scoring 10 or more runs.
- The top five hitters in Oklahoma City's lineup accounted for nine of the team's 12 hits, including all four home runs ... The quintet also drove in 10 of the team's 12 runs.
- Seven of the Spark's nine starters registered at least one hit ... Outfielder **Bubba Nickles-Camarena** and designated player **Grace Jenkins** were the only starters without a base hit.
- Seven of the Spark's nine starters also scored at least one run ... Jenkins and infielder **Sydney Sherrill** were the only Oklahoma City starters who did not score a run in the victory.
- Oklahoma City hit three consecutive home runs to open the fourth inning ... It is the third time in AUSL regular season history where a team has hit three home runs in a single inning.
- Oklahoma City has hit multiple home runs in eight of its last 11 games and matched a season high with four homers on Saturday ... The Spark also hit four home runs in the season opener against Texas on June 9 in addition to four home runs at Chicago on June 13.
- Utility player **Maya Brady** set a new AUSL single-season record after clubbing her league-leading 10th home run of the season in the top of the seventh inning ... It also marked the second time this season an Oklahoma City player has belted two home runs in a game after infielder **Delanie Wisz** had two homers against Chicago on June 13.
- Infielder **Sydney Romero** upped her hitting streak to six games with her solo home run in the fourth inning ... She also added an infield single during the eighth inning to record her team-leading 12th multi-hit game of the season.

- Romero has also reached base safely in 11 consecutive games, the longest on-base streak by an Oklahoma City player this season.
- Wisz recorded her seventh home run of the season with a solo shot to right center field in the fourth inning ... She also contributed a single in the eighth inning to post her fifth multi-hit game of the campaign.
- Outfielder **Sydney McKinney** has hit safely in eight consecutive games after her RBI single in the eighth inning ... She has also reached base in eight straight outings.
- Pitcher **Jailyn Ford** improved to 3-3 on the season after giving up one run on five hits with four strikeouts over 3.2 innings of relief.

Spark's Next Game: Sunday, July 19 at Carolina (Noon ET/11 a.m. CT)

BLAZE NOTES



- Carolina has lost nine games in a row, marking the longest skid in AUSL regular season history ... The Blaze have played four extra-inning games during that span.
- Carolina has scored in the first frame in 10 of its 23 games with a 4-6 record in those outings after infielder **Alyssa Brito** opened the scoring with a single in the first inning.
- Catcher **Reese Atwood** has reached base in 10 straight games after drawing a walk in the first inning.
- Infielder **Baylee Klingler** increased her hitting streak to five games with a pair of singles in the first and fifth innings ... It also marked her fourth multi-hit performance of the season.
- Brito registered her third home run of the season with a two-run rocket in the fifth frame for her third multi-hit game of the campaign.
- Brito finished 4-for-4 at the plate to mark the first four-hit performance of the season for the Blaze.
- Catcher **Kayla Kowalik** has registered a hit in five of her last six games after singling in the second inning.
- Infielder **Aubrey Leach** finished 1-for-3 with a single and a walk in Saturday's defeat ... She has reached base safely in 20-of-24 games this season.
- Infielder **Ana Gold** recorded her second straight outing with a home run with a lead-off blast in the fourth inning ... Gold added a single in the sixth for her second multi-hit effort of the season.
- Infielder **Jenna Laird** failed to reach base safely for the first time in her last six games.
- Pitcher **Karlyn Pickens** was saddled with the loss after allowing 11 runs (three earned) on seven hits in 4.2 innings ... Making her 15th appearance and 10th start of the season, Pickens finished with seven strikeouts to mark her sixth outing with at least five strikeouts.

Blaze's Next Game: Sunday, July 19 vs. Oklahoma City (Noon ET/11 a.m. CT)