



2026 Athletes Unlimited Softball League Season: Game #73
Durham, North Carolina (Smith Family Stadium)

Sunday, July 19, 2026
Noon ET/11 a.m. CT

SCORE BY INNING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E	LOB
Spark (13-11)	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	6	8	1	8
Blaze (8-16)	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	5	10	3	8

Winning Pitcher: Maddie Penta (3-0) | **Losing Pitcher:** Keilani Ricketts (2-6) | **Save:** Alana Vawter (1) | **Time of Game:** 2:14

HOME RUNS	NO.	PITCHER	INN.	ROB	OUT	COUNT	LOCATION
Valerie Cagle	2	Maddie Penta	5	1	2	2-1	LF
Valerie Cagle	3	Alana Vawter	7	1	1	1-1	LCF

The Quick Story: Outfielder **Bubba Nickles-Camarena** registered four hits and utility player **Amari Harper** drove in three runs as the Oklahoma City Spark (13-11) held off a late comeback bid by the Carolina Blaze (8-16) to claim a 6-5 Athletes Unlimited Softball League victory in the penultimate game of the season for both teams at Smith Family Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

Key Moment: Oklahoma City paired a sacrifice fly from infielder **Sydney Romero** with a Carolina throwing error to score three runs in the sixth frame following the weather delay to take a 6-3 lead.

Worth the Wait: The game was delayed for 91 minutes in the middle of the fifth inning due to weather.

SPARK NOTES



- Oklahoma City requested a coach's challenge in the top of the third inning after catcher **Sarah Gordon** was called out at first base ... The challenge was unsuccessful after the original call was upheld.
- Oklahoma City failed to hit a home run for the first time since June 27 against Chicago, ending a streak of 11 straight games with at least one homer ... The Spark still lead the AUSL with 38 home runs in 24 games.
- Oklahoma City can secure an AUSL postseason berth with a win over Carolina in Monday night's season finale ... A loss by the Spark will give the final playoff spot to Portland.
- Oklahoma City has scored four or more runs in each of the last 12 games after its six-run output on Sunday.
- Outfielder **Bubba Nickles-Camarena** has reached base safely in four straight games after registering the Spark's first hit with a single down the left field line in the second inning ... Nickles-Camarena added two singles and a double to record her second multi-hit effort of the season, including her first four-hit game.
- Nickles-Camarena is the first Oklahoma City player to collect four hits in a game this season.
- Nickles-Camarena notched her 100th career hit across all Athletes Unlimited formats with her single to left field in the seventh inning.
- Infielder **Sydney Romero** extended her on-base streak to 12 games with a single in the top of the third inning ... It also ran her hitting streak to seven games ... Romero drove in a run with a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning.
- Outfielder **Sydney McKinney** extended her on-base streak to nine games with a walk in the third inning.
- Utility player **Maya Brady** is 4-for-8 in two games against Carolina this season after recording a single in the fifth inning.
- Outfielder **Amari Harper** increased her hitting streak to four games after her bases-loaded double in the fifth inning opened the scoring for the Spark.
- Pitcher **Maddie Penta** improved to 3-0 this season after allowing three runs (two earned) on five hits with a season-high five strikeouts.
- Pitcher **Alana Vawter** pocketed her first save of the season after scattering two earned runs on five hits with a strikeout over the final 2.0 innings ... It also marked the Spark's third save this season, which is tied with Chicago for the league lead.

Spark's Next Game: Monday, July 20 at Carolina (7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT)

- Carolina recorded a season-high three errors in Sunday's loss against Oklahoma City ... It is the fifth time the Blaze have posted multiple errors in a game this season.
- The Blaze logged double-digit hits for the third straight game after doing so twice in their first 21 outings.
- Carolina was 0-for-8 with runners in scoring position in Sunday's loss ... The Blaze were also 7-of-17 in advancement opportunities.
- Infielder **Alyssa Brito** is 8-for-13 in four games against Oklahoma City this season after going 1-for-4 on Sunday ... Brito has tallied two home runs with a double, four runs batted in and four runs scored.
- Outfielder **Dakota Kennedy** has successfully reached base in four of her last five outings after registering a pair of singles ... Kennedy has a multi-hit effort in three of her last four games.
- Catcher **Reese Atwood** extended her on-base streak to a team-high 11 games with a walk in the third inning.
- Infielder **Ana Gold** upped her hitting streak to three games with a pair of singles ... She is 6-for-10 at the plate during the three-game streak.
- Utility player **Valerie Cagle** blasted two home runs with a pair of two-run shots ... She is the second Blaze player this season to record two home runs in a game after Atwood had two homers against Texas on June 14.
- Cagle also drove in a season-high four runs against Oklahoma City on Sunday.
- Utility player **Devyn Netz** logged back-to-back games with a single as a pinch hitter ... Netz is 3-for-3 on the season as a pinch hitter and added a single in the seventh inning for her second multi-hit effort.
- Infielder **Baylee Klingler** stretched her hitting streak to six games with a single in the seventh inning.
- Pitcher **Ruby Meylan** pitched a season-high 4.0 innings in the start for Carolina ... She held the Spark scoreless while collecting two strikeouts and surrendering three hits but did not factor in the decision.
- Pitcher **Emma Lemley** pitched the fifth inning where she recorded three unearned runs and a strikeout.
- Pitcher **Keilani Ricketts** (2-6) was saddled with the loss after giving three runs (one earned) on two hits with two walks and one strikeout over 2.0 innings ... Ricketts has been the Blaze's pitcher of record in five of the last six games.
- Ricketts has now made an appearance in nine of Carolina's last 11 games ... She has pitched in 17 games this season, tying Texas' **Aliyah Binford** for the league lead.

Blaze's Next Game: Monday, July 20 vs. Oklahoma City (7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT)