

Aggies Edge Colorado State on Opening Day of NCBA World Series

By Kelsey Detweiler | May 23rd, 2014

Tampa, FL – The Utah State Aggies defeated Colorado State Club Baseball by a score of 6-5 on Friday afternoon. The Aggies took home their first win of the week on the opening day of the tournament.

Rams' lead-off Brett Bogner laced a single up the middle followed by a Keenan Garcia walk and Trevor Bruton single to load the bases in the top of second. With one out, freshman Matt Smith drew a walk to score Bogner for the first run of the game. Junior Zach Gehler followed with a sacrifice fly to score Garcia from third before the end of the inning to put Colorado State ahead 2-0.



The Rams held their lead through two more innings before the Aggies put up two of their own in the bottom of the fifth. Senior Kelton Cronquist smacked a one-out triple to start the rally. Utah State recorded three more hits and a walk off of Rams' starter Riley Hughes to tie things up.

Utah State kept the pressure on and came up big in the bottom of the sixth. With runners at first and second, senior Garrett Schiffman smacked a triple to right-field and brought in two. Junior Jeffrey King followed with a single to score a Schiffman from third and gave the Aggies a comfortable 5-2 lead.

Despite an impressive comeback effort by the Rams in the ninth inning, Utah State held its lead and earned the 6-5 opening round victory. Colorado State's right-hander Rob Garrett threw 144 pitches through eight and 1/3 innings to hold-off the Aggies, allowing just five runs on 10 hits and three walks while striking out five.

"I just got in groove after the third inning," said Garrett. "My curveball started working and I just felt really good. I just tried to come out and be mechanically sound and tried to hold them off for awhile and it worked out."

Garrett's head coach, Norm Doyle, was also impressed with his starter's work but said that his focus is on the days ahead and the next game on the docket.

"We're hoping to get a little bit of rest tomorrow and get hydrated again," said Doyle. "I don't know anything about Cal but they're here so they're obviously good and we'll come out and we'll be ready."

Utah State advances within the Winner's Bracket and will play No. 6 Cal Club Baseball on Sunday, May 25th at 3:15 p.m. Colorado State will face No. 3 Florida in an elimination game on Saturday, May 24th at 3:15 p.m.

Check out the complete [box score](#) of the game online at the NCBA League Website.

This is the second consecutive season that the National Club Baseball Association has hosted the season-finale event at the University of Tampa Baseball Stadium in downtown Tampa. Games will continue through Thursday, May 29th. For a full schedule of events, links to in-game broadcasts and play-by-play updates, head to the [NCBA World Series Website](#).