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Decker drives in a pair as Javs edge Dogs

Padres prospect is 11-for-22 with five RBIs in six AFL games

By John Parker / Special to MLB.com

Padres outfield prospect Jaff Decker singled twice and drove in a pair of runs as the Peoria Javelinas edged the visiting Phoenix Desert Dogs, 3-2, on Tuesday afternoon.

Decker, a first-round pick in the 2008 Draft, batted .236 with 19 homers and 92 RBIs in 133 games for Texas League champion San Antonio during the regular season. The **Padres' No. 5 prospect** begun the AFL campaign on a hot streak with hits in five of six games, three of them multiple-hit performances. His .500 average (11-for-22) has him tied with teammate Ryan Jackson for the Javelinas' club lead.

The Desert Dogs jumped out to an early lead as leadoff man Anthony Gose (Blue Jays) tripled to right on the game's first pitch. The next batter, Phoenix center fielder Grant Green (A's) brought him home with a sacrifice fly.

Decker evened the game at 1-1 in the fourth inning, sending a one-out single back up the middle to score Matt Adams (Cardinals) from second. The Javelinas tacked on two more runs in the fifth when Chih-Hsien Chang (Mariners) singled, stole second and scored on a base hit by fellow Seattle prospect Adam Moore. Decker drove in the Javs' third run with a two-out single to right.

In the ninth, Phoenix designated hitter Jesus Aguilar (Indians) hit a solo blast, his second of the season, to draw the Desert Dogs within one run.

Phoenix was 0-for-2 with runners in scoring position and left four men on base.

Five Peoria pitchers combined to hold Phoenix to six hits. Starter Tyler Lyons (Cardinals) allowed one run on two hits while fanning three over four innings while Milwaukee prospect Tyler Thornburg (1-0) earned the win with two scoreless frames of relief. Santo Manzanillo, also of the Brewers, notched his first save despite yielding the long ball to Aguilar.

All nine of the Javelinas' hits were singles, with Decker and Chiang collecting two apiece.

Phoenix reliever Dan Burawa (Yankees) fell to 1-1 after allowing two runs on four hits and a walk in 1 2/3 innings. The final three Desert Dogs pitchers of the game -- Nick Christiani (Reds), Aaron Loup (Blue Jays) and Brad Boxberger (Reds) -- each worked one perfect inning.

It was the Desert Dogs' fourth straight loss and both clubs are 3-4 after one week of AFL play. They're two games behind the first-place Surprise Saguaros in the West Division.