

Recap: Bullpen, Bees can't hold on, drop third straight game to fall to 5-5



This Tuesday, June 8 the New Britain Bees hit the road for a two-game set with the Vermont Lake Monsters at Centennial Field in Vermont. After jumping out to a 5-0 start, victory seemed assured, but a struggling New Britain bullpen and a strong rally from Vermont led to a 6-5 walkoff win for the Lake Monsters to drop to a 5-5 record on the season.

In the first four innings, everything was coming up for New Britain. The team jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead thanks to a single from first-baseman Jake Hyde. They padded the lead further with a four-run fourth inning that gave them the early 5-0 lead that seemed safe.

The Bees got an excellent start from Colin Blake on Tuesday as well. The right-hander threw six one-run innings, allowing three total baserunners and striking out 10 Vermont hitters. He left the game with his team up 5-1 in the sixth inning.

Despite Blake's performance, the 5-1 victory was anything but secured for New Britain. Reliever Rory Lynch allowed a three-run home run to nine-hitter Daniel Carinci in the seventh and was only able to muster two outs in the inning before being chased from the game.

Up 5-4 in the bottom of the ninth, the Bees turned to Tim Pfaffenbichler, who was unable to close things out. After allowing a game-tying hit off the bat of Pat DeSalvo, Noah Granet stroked a one-out walk off single off

Pfaffenbichler that would end the evening for the Bees. They lost by a final score of 6-5 and fell to 5-5 on the season with their third consecutive loss.

The story of the game was the Bees' bullpen struggling to string together outs. Starter Colin Blake was near dominant, cruising through six one-run innings before turning the ball over to a usually-reliable group of relievers. Unfortunately for Blake, his team coughed up the win in short order, getting only seven outs after he collected the first 18. They allowed five runs in the process.

The Bees' hitters were largely solid on Tuesday, out-hitting the Lake Monsters 9-8 overall. In the end though, Vermont mustered the bigger hits, which led to their ultimate 6-5 victory. The Bees struck out 17 times and did not score a run in the final five innings.

New Britain will have the opportunity to erase Tuesday's memories on Wednesday as they face the Lake Monsters again at 7:05 p.m. Eastern. Michael Boyian will start for the Bees.