

Preview: Bees looking to build on Opening Day win in road bout with Suns



This Thursday, May 27 the New Britain Bees will get their first taste of road action as they travel to take on the Pittsfield Suns. After Opening Day victories for both squads, both teams are looking for their second win in as many nights. They are each 1-0.

The Bees are coming off an impressive 11-6 comeback victory over the Norwich Sea Unicorns that saw them finish the game with 10 unanswered runs. Meanwhile, the Suns dominated the Brockton Rox in a 14-6 blowout win where Pittsfield outhit their opponent 16-7. It may be early, but this is a big game between two promising teams.

For New Britain, the lefty Joe Nemchek gets the starting nod from manager Donnie McKillop. The 6-foot lefty just put together a solid college season as he completed his Junior year at Southern Connecticut State University, during which Nemchek flashed excellent swing-and-miss stuff, collecting 17 strikeouts in 15.2 innings pitched and only one home run allowed. He did at times struggle with control though, as he walked 18 batters along the way. He will need to keep his walk rate down if he is going to have success against a good hitting team like Pittsfield.

Offensively, the Bees are coming off a terrific game, where all nine starters reached base multiple times. Catcher Jimmy Sullivan (2 hits, 3 walks, 4 RBI's, 1 SB) and first baseman Jake Hyde (hit, 4 walks) in particular were consistently working counts and taking what was given to them. The rest of

the team played well too, accounting for the remaining 11 hits and 14 walks the Bees tallied in the contest.

McKillop is keeping the lineup almost entirely the same, except he's inserting Rory Lynch in center field in the place of Sammy Smith, who had two hits on Wednesday against Norwich. Lynch recently played under McKillop at Loomis Chaffee highschool, so there's a comfort factor with him in the lineup.

For the Suns, the offense starts with the leadoff man Jake Blinstrub and the designated hitter Mike Gervasi. In their Opening Day win over Brockton, Blinstrub notched 4 hits, 2 RBI's and a stolen base while Gervasi had 3 hits and 4 RBI's of his own. Expect Nemchek and the Bees to be extra careful when those two are at the plate.

First pitch will commence at 6:35 p.m. Eastern.