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### **New Britain Bees - Season Preview**

New Britain Bees baseball is officially back as the team gets set to open the 2021 season at home when they host the Norwich Sea Unicorns this Wednesday, May 26. The Bees are looking to start off the first game of their post-pandemic season with a bang as New Britain Stadium welcomes fans back at full-capacity for the first time since 2019.

Though the Bees largely struggled last year, finishing last in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League of New England (FCBL) with a 15-23 record, there are plenty of new faces and reasons for optimism for the season ahead. That starts at the top as New Britain is welcoming in Donnie McKillop as their new head coach. McKillop previously coached at Loomis Chaffee highschool where he guided the Pelicans to two league titles in his three years at the helm.

While McKillop is going to use the first few practices and games to figure out the ideal lineup in the field, he's going with a familiar face on the mound to be the Bees' opening day starting pitcher. The new manager is handing the ball off to Dawson Logie, who previously pitched under McKillop at Loomis Chaffee this past spring. The 6-foot-3 righthander has a fastball that clocked in at 88 miles-per-hour and a competitive spirit that's drawn praise from his former/current coach.

Catcher Jimmy Sullivan will be behind the plate catching or Logie on Wednesday as well. Sullivan just completed his Freshman year at UMass Lowell where he finished with a stellar .341 batting-average, 18 runs-batted-in and 13 walks in 34 games. Incredibly, he also finished the season with only one charged-error at a crucial defensive position.

Also likely to be in the lineup Wednesday are infielder Todd Petersen and outfielder Zach Donahue who both just wrapped their season at the University of Connecticut. Petersen scored an impressive five runs in only six starts for the Huskies while Donahue hit .440 in his senior year at South Windsor Highschool in addition to being invited to the Connecticut Senior All-Star Game in 2019.

The FCBL is also welcoming in three new teams for the 2021 season: the Pittsfield Suns, the Vermont Lake Monsters and the bees' opening day opponent, the Norwich Sea Unicorns. The Norwich team was formerly known as the Connecticut Tigers, a minor league affiliate of the

Detroit Tigers up until 2019 when the MLB reorganized their minors system. With new teams in the mix, Wednesday could be the start of a brand new rivalry.

First pitch will be at 6:35 p.m. Eastern at the New Britain Stadium.