

## New Britain Bees Season

### Awards:

No matter how a team may finish in the regular season, they are not without a number of players who stand out above the rest as worthy of acknowledgement. The 2021 New Britain Bees are no different. So, with the conclusion of the season a few days ago, it's time to discuss who among the Bees is worthy of special mention, for one reason or another. Here are the 2021 New Britain Bees season award winners:



### **Team MVP: Jake Hyde, First-Baseman, Georgetown** **Runner Up: Ryan Bagdasarian**

Earlier in the season, I had a discussion with head coach Donnie McKillop, during which he referred to Jake Hyde as “Mr. Consistent.” That label held true for the entire 2021 campaign, as Hyde led the team in RBI’s (32) and was second in batting-average (.296) among players who played in 20 or more games throughout the season. Those marks were also good for fifth and ninth among all qualified players in the entire FCBL respectively. Furthermore, Hyde was second only to right-fielder Alec Ritch in games-played for New Britain, finishing with 51 total appearances to pair with his dominant numbers. Mr. Consistent indeed. “The RBI machine; [I] always want him up in big moments,” McKillop said. “When he gets in the box you know he’s going to compete his butt off.”

## **Starting Pitcher of the Year: Colin Blake, Hartford**

### **Runner Up: Kevin Seitter**

Colin Blake wasted no time in becoming New Britain's staff ace. The 6-foot-4 righty pitched in seven games as a Bee, to the tune of a 2-2 record. The FCBL All Star's 2.70 earned-run-average was first among Bees' starters and would have been third in the entire league had he reached the minimum 50-inning qualifying-mark. Instead he pitched in only 40 innings, but he produced 35 strikeouts in that span nonetheless. He was brilliant all year long, allowing one run or fewer in four of his seven appearances. "He just gets up there with swagger and confidence and attacks the zone with a bunch of different pitches. [He's] been a great starter for us [and] has had a very consistent outing over his time here," said McKillop.

## **Reliever of the Year: Jagger Duquette, Wagner**

### **College**

### **Runner Up: Bryson Cafaro**

Despite playing out of the bullpen, Duquette actually led the Bees in wins with four in 19 appearances. Perhaps even more impressive, in 36.1 innings-pitched, the righty reliever pieced together a campaign with an unbelievable 1.75 ERA, behind only Tommy Benincaso, who pitched nearly 20 fewer innings. He has also allowed only .89 base-runners per inning-pitched while being used in exclusively high-leverage situations. "He's a good one. Just grit and composure," McKillop said. "[I would] put him in in sticky situations and [I knew he'd] be fine."

## **Gold Glove Award: Ryan Bagdasarian, Eastern CT State/Jake Hyde, Georgetown**

**Runner Up: N/A**

Because much of the defensive aspect of baseball doesn't appear on the stat sheet, I posed the question to McKillop himself about who his best defensive player was. And though both Bagdasarian and Hyde are known for their impressive play at the plate, McKillop selected them both nonetheless. While playing 42 games in center field, Bagdasarian played reliably without ever committing an error. Hyde meanwhile, in 50 games at first base, committed only one error to finish with a remarkable .993 fielding-percentage.