

Preview: Bees look to build a new winning streak as they host the Pittsfield Suns



There has at times been a feeling of “one step forward, two steps back,” for the 8-11 New Britain Bees this season. They’ve had winning streaks and losing streaks all year long, but a masterful 13-1 victory over the first place Brockton Rox on Friday, June 18 is a mighty big step forward for the Bees. Now, they have a chance to build on the victory with another win Saturday over the visiting second place Pittsfield Suns.

New Britain and Pittsfield have had a remarkably even season series through their first four meetings. The Bees have gone 2-2 against the Suns (though one loss was decided in a home run derby when the game was tied after 10 innings), out-scoring Pittsfield 16-13 along the way. In the two games at New Britain Stadium, both teams won one game and scored seven total runs. The Bees are 7-3 overall at home however, so home-field advantage could certainly be in play.

The Suns are in second place in the FCBL at 12-7. They have won two games in a row and have gone 6-4 in their last 10 games. They hit .275 as a team, compared to the Bees’ mark of .236, and their team-earned-run-average of 3.18 is vastly superior to New Britain’s 4.50. They hit well and they pitch well. They’re just a good all around team, and their record reflects that.

The pitcher head coach Donnie McKillop has selected to counter the Suns’ potent offense is none other than Joe Nemchek. The righty has made three appearances this year to the tune of a 4.50 ERA, though that number is

slightly inflated by his most recent start (4.1 innings, four hits, four earned runs). Prior to that game Nemchek had allowed only three earned runs with eight strikeouts in 9.2 innings of work.

The game will begin at 6:35 p.m. Eastern.