

Preview: Bees looking to bounce back in home matchup with Starfires



After a two-game road trip, the Bees are returning home Thursday, June 3 with a 3-2 record to take on the 1-2 Westfield Starfires.

The two teams were scheduled to play late last week, but because that game was postponed, Thursday will be their first meeting this season.

Wednesday's 7-2 loss to the Norwich Sea Unicorns was the Bees first and only regulation loss this season. Meanwhile, the Starfires have lost two games in a row, including a 14-0 blowout at the hands of the Pittsfield Suns. Both teams will be looking to right the ship.

Other than a few crooked innings, the Bees' team strength this year has been their quality pitching. They allowed a season-high seven runs in Wednesday's loss, but New Britain boasts an incredible 2.20 earned-run-average as a team this year. Only 11 total earned runs have been charged to Bees pitchers this season through five games.

The top of the Bees' order has been stellar to start the year. Sammy Smith (.333), Alec Ritch (.308) and Jake Hyde (.300) are all batting .300 or better. Meanwhile, catcher Jimmy Sullivan's six RBI's lead the entire FCBL. Those four have accounted for 18 of New Britain's 25 runs-batted-in this season.

Scoring runs has been a struggle for Westfield in 2021. Through three games, the Starfires have been outscored 30-5 while batting .127 as a team. Three

Westfield batters have not yet recorded a hit this year and they have allowed 14 runs in back-to-back games entering Thursday's contest.

Opening Day starter Dawson Logie will be back on the mound for New Britain. In his first start this year he allowed six runs (four earned) in 2.2 innings, but those numbers are somewhat deceptive. He breezed through the first eight batters before the third inning just got away from him. Head coach Donnie McKillop is confident that he can rebound in his "redemption start."

The game is set to begin at 6:35 p.m. Eastern at the New Britain Stadium.