

## Recap: Resilient Bees snap seven-game slide at home with win over Nashua



It's been a long time since the New Britain Bees were able to celebrate a victory - seven games to be exact - but on Sunday, June 13 in a matinee game at New Britain Stadium, the Bees pulled out a hard-fought 8-4 victory over the Nashua Silver Knights. The celebration afterwards was well earned.

New Britain was the recipient of some shoddy Nashua defense early on. Bees catcher Jimmy Sullivan made the game 1-0 when he scored on a ground ball that snuck through the second baseman Kyle Hannon in the second inning. The Bees drove in another run in the third when a fly ball to left field was dropped by Patrick Casserly. A bases-loaded Jimmy Sullivan walk scored another and the Bees held a 3-0 lead after three innings.

The lead appeared to be safe for starter Joe Nemchek, who had cruised through four shutout innings. Unfortunately for Nemchek and the Bees, the fifth inning saw the lead evaporate in an instant. Nemchek loaded the bases with one out, but an RBI hit-by-pitch would end his day. He was replaced by the usually excellent Jagger Duquette, but he too had his struggles. Three runs came in while Duquette was pitching before the lefty Bryson Cafaro was brought in to get the final out and end the inning. Nashua was able to score four runs and take the lead before the inning was over.

New Britain wasn't done however. They answered back in the fifth with a run of their own on a balk by pitcher Graham Jeffries. Then in the seventh, second-baseman Michael Hernandez roped a single to left field that gave the

Bees a 5-4 lead they simply refused to surrender. They won by a final score of 8-4.

Hernandez, who also turned a slick double play in the sixth inning, said he felt proud to be part of the team's first win in over a week. "It's rewarding," he said. "We're gonna come back and do big things."

Like Hernandez, Luke Broadhurst also turned in a strong performance at the plate and in the field. Broadhurst scored four of the team's eight runs and had three hits, a walk and an RBI. The highlight of his evening was an eighth inning solo home run over the center field wall that would push the lead to 7-4, all but ensuring the eventual victory.

For head coach Donnie McKillop, the resilience of his group to come back from a deficit during a difficult losing streak is what impressed him most. "[There were] a lot of ways we could have strayed and felt bad for ourselves... To not do that, to stay positive and stay together as a group is really cool," he said.

The Bees will have a much-needed day off on Monday before hosting the Pittsfield Suns on Tuesday. The game will be at 6:35 p.m. Eastern and Colin Blake will likely get the start for New Britain.