

Recap: Bees split double-header against Rox as climb to .500 continues



Sunday, June 20, otherwise known as Father's Day, the New Britain Bees played host to the first place Brockton Rox in their first double-header of the season. They entered the day at 9-11 and left it at 10-12 after they split the two-game set with Brockton.

New Britain took an early 2-0 lead in the second inning courtesy of a trio of singles by Michael Hernandez, David Howarth (making his Bees debut) and Ryan Bagdasarian. It didn't last long however, as Bees' starter Michael Boyian was chased after 3.1 innings with the game tied 2-2 and the bases loaded. Reliever Jagger Duquette came in during the fourth inning and got the two remaining outs, but a run (charged to Boyian) came in on a sacrifice fly by left-fielder Jacob Studley.

With a 4-2 deficit and two outs in the sixth inning, the Bees looked dead in the water. But as they have all year, the team fought back. Ryan Bagdasarian singled to score the pinch-runner Rory Lynch to cut the Rox lead to one run, and a series of intentional walks by Brockton to load the bases backfired. Shortstop Todd Petersen worked a walk to tie the game and the DH Jack Scher gave them the lead when a pitch caught him on the lower leg. The Bees took a 5-4 lead into the seventh inning and reliever Brendan Kirck delivered the win with his first save of the year.

After putting together an inspiring come-from-behind victory in Game 1, Game 2 saw the Bees struggle in all phases of the game. Starter Andrew Cain

never quite found the strike zone, allowing three runs in two innings of work before being replaced by Dylan Benton, who kept the Bees within striking distance until the game fell apart in the fifth inning. Three pitchers took the mound in the fifth, allowing seven runs before recording the second out of the frame. The Bees went on to lose by a final score of 11-0.

Sunday was the tale of two games for New Britain. In game 1 the team scored five runs on 10 hits and earned an impressive victory over a first place team. In Game 2, that same team had their way with the Bees on both sides of the plate. The Bees were out-hit 11-1 in the first five innings and the remaining innings were purely cosmetic.

Still, the Bees won three out of their four games this weekend against the first place Rox and second place Pittsfield Suns. They improved a 7-11 record to 10-12. Game 2 of the double-header may have been ugly, but the weekend still presented far more positives than negatives.

New Britain will take a well-earned day off Monday before heading to Worcester Tuesday to take on the Bravehearts. The game will begin at 6:30 p.m. Eastern.