

Recap: Bees sweep double-header with Worcester in return to game action



The 16-20 New Britain Bees had not played an official game since last Sunday, July 11. Nine members of the team did make an appearance in Tuesday's FCBL All Star game, but nonetheless this Thursday was their return to the field as a team. Coming off a break, the Bees took on the Worcester Bravehearts in a two-game set that saw New Britain bring their record up to 18-20 with a pair of much-needed wins.

Game 1 of the double-header began with the Bravehearts jumping all over Bees' starting pitcher, Michael Boyian (an FCBL All Star). Worcester took a 3-1 lead in the first inning and scored four earned runs off Boyian in his 3.1 innings of work. But before Boyian was pulled from the game, New Britain staged a comeback, scoring runs in each of the first four innings. That 6-4 lead was all the Bees would need for the seven-inning victory.

In Game 2 of the set, New Britain got a much more dominant start from their opening pitcher. The righty Kevin Seitter got the call from manager Donnie McKillop, and he put together five excellent innings, allowing only one earned run and striking out six Worcester hitters. Seitter left the game with a 4-1 lead that looked safe, but the very next inning the Bees put up five runs. Seitter was awarded the win for a game the Bees won 9-1.

In their crucial double-header sweep, Ryan Bagdasarian was at the center of everything for New Britain. The All Star scored two runs on a hit and a walk

in the first game before scoring twice, reaching base three times and collecting three RBI's in the second.

Catcher Davis Cop has also found himself in a much more prominent role in the Bees lineup than when he made his debut a few weeks ago. He has raised his season's average from .200 to .278 in his past four games while adding four RBI's on Thursday alone. The Bees are grateful for Cop's emergence especially now that Luke Broadhurst has been out of the lineup for a few games.

It's been an uneven season for McKillop's bullpen, but the unit came to play Thursday. In the first game, Tommy Benincaso (one inning, zero runs, win) and Bryson Cafaro (2.2 innings, zero hits, zero runs, six strikeouts, save) combined to close out a tight game once Boyian was pulled in the fourth inning. In Game 2, Brendan Kirck (one inning, one hit, zero runs) and Alex Rosario (one inning, zero hits, zero runs) were also very strong in relief of Seitter.

After two impressive wins Thursday, New Britain (18-20) will travel to Norwich to take on the Sea Unicorns (18-19), who they can leapfrog in the standings with a win. The game will begin at 7:00 p.m. Eastern.