

Recap: Alec Ritch, Bees outduel Silver Knights in back-and-forth road win



Tuesday, June 1, the Bees hit the road once again to take on the Nashua Silver Knights for the first time since 2019, and the game did not disappoint. It took all nine innings to decide a winner, but ultimately the Bees held on for a 7-5 victory over Nashua to move them to 3-1 this season.

After the first three and a half innings produced four total baserunners, the game surprisingly and abruptly turned to a power-surge at the plate. In the fourth inning, Nashua-outfielder Patrick Casserly pulled a ball to left field off of Bees' starter Colin Blake for the 1-0 lead and the first homer allowed by Bees pitching this year.

Then in the fifth, Jack Scher reached first on a single and right-fielder Alec Ritch gave the Bees the lead with a two-run shot off of the righty Matt Poff. Ritch's home run was his first hit of the season and the first Bees homer in 2021. Unfortunately for New Britain, a throwing error by Michael Hernandez allowed Nick Perkins to reach second and a sacrifice-groundout by catcher Ben Jerome tied the game at 2-2.

Ritch continued his heroics in the seventh inning, where he walked to force relief pitcher Aidan Crowley out of the game, and then again in the top of the ninth inning where he sparked a four-run rally. With the game tied 3-3 and Jack Scher on first base, Ritch doubled to get men in scoring position. From there, the New Britain hitters locked in as a Rory Lynch single, a Zach

Donahue double and a Jake Hyde single brought in four runs (including the game-winner).

Nashua threatened to tie the game in the bottom of the ninth, but New Britain hung on for the eventual 7-5 victory.

For the fourth straight game to open the season, the Bees surrendered the game's first run. Luckily, for the third time in four games, they were able to overcome the deficit. 14 of the team's 26 total runs have come in the seventh inning or later. They may have a flair for the dramatic, but they also have a 3-1 record to show for it.

Alec Ritch was nothing short of brilliant for New Britain on Tuesday. Despite going hitless in his first two games this year, Ritch was responsible for four of the Bees' seven runs. He crossed the plate three times while bringing home Jack Scher as well on his two-run homer in the fifth inning. With two hits and a walk, Ritch collected seven total bases in four plate appearances. Manager Donnie McKillop kept him out of the lineup on Monday at home and Ritch responded in a big way.

Pitching was also a strength for New Britain on Tuesday. Starter Colin Blake went five innings, allowing two runs (one earned) and striking out four along the way. Jagger Duquette, Brendan Kirck, Steven Phillips and Tim Pfaffenbichler all came on in relief to deliver the 7-5 victory. Kirck and Pfaffenbichler allowed three combined runs (two earned), which marks the first time the New Britain bullpen has surrendered any runs this season.

The Bees' road trip continues Wednesday in Norwich as they face the Sea Unicorns at 7:00 p.m. eastern.