

NEWPORT GULLS BASEBALL

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"RAISING THE BAR IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL"

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North Adams offense pounds way to win in series opener

NEWPORT, R.I. – The North Adams offense broke out in a big way as the SteepleCats used a season-high 16-hit attack to power their way to a 8-4 victory over Newport in Game One of the best-of-three New England Collegiate Baseball League Divisional Semifinal series Thursday.

After failing to score with bases loaded and one out in the top of the first, North Adams took advantage of future scoring opportunities. The SteepleCats scored three times in the second inning, once in the third and four more times in the fourth inning to steadily build a lead.

It was a balanced attack for North Adams, as eight different players had at least one hit, seven different players scored at least one run and five different players had at least one run batted in. Sean Conley led the way with four hits, one RBI and one run scored. Sean Parker added a double, two singles, one run and one RBI. John Servidio had a two-run double for the SteepleCats.

North Adams starter Jon Ban scattered seven hits over his six innings of work. Despite the hit total, he allowed just one run. Relief pitcher Robert Germane threw two scoreless innings and allowed just one hit. After Newport rallied in the ninth against Tim Adleman, closer Jeremiah Bayer came on for North Adams and struck out the only batter he faced, Matt Iannetta, to end the game and record the save.

Newport made things interesting with three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning. However, it was too little, too late for the Gulls, who now must win two straight games to keep its season alive. Getting base-runners was not the problem, as the Gulls had 13 hits. The issue for the offense was stringing hits together. Newport stranded 11 runners on base on the night.

Jonathan White led the Newport offense with a double, two singles and two runs scored. Matt Vance and Ryan Wiegand each added a double, single and two runs batted in. On the mound, Stephen Peterson offered a bright spot for the Gulls by pitching three scoreless inning of relief, slowing the SteepleCat offense in the process.

Game two of the series will be played Friday at North Adams (7 p.m.). Adam Wilk (3-2, 1.12 ERA) is expected to start for Newport, while Nick McCully (4-1, 2.15 ERA) is slated for the SteepleCats.

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