

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2015

WASHINGTON, P.A.—Three times the Otters found themselves down the Washington Wild Things. Three times the Otters came back to tie the game. The Otters made sure there would not be a fourth thanks to the bullpen combination of Connor Little and Blake Monar, and the bats of Chris Sweeney and Josh Allen. Little and Monar combined for four innings of scoreless relief and Sweeney and Allen each drove in a run in the top of the tenth to give the Otters the runs they would need en route to a 7-6 extra inning victory.

Things did not start off well for the Otters as Tyler Vail, making his Frontier League debut, allowed two runs in the bottom of the first inning, the first on a home run to David Popkins. The Otters though would respond in the next half-inning, as Josh Allen battled for seven pitches against Tim Flight, the starter for the Wild Things, and on the eighth pitch of the at bat, sent a ball well clear of the right field wall to cut the deficit in half at 2-1.

But, the Wild Things came right back, extending their lead to 3-1 in the bottom of the third inning on an error by John Schultz and an RBI single by Matt Ford.

Their comfortable lead would get less so in the top of the fourth inning when Allen yet again broke through for the Otters, cutting the deficit in half again, this time on a single to center with runners on first and second and two outs. With the lefty Flight on the mound and Kurt Wertz Jr. on third, Allen took off for second before the pitch was delivered and despite the pickoff attempt, slid under the attempted tag of short stop Austin Wobrock, allowing Wertz Jr. to come on home from third on the double steal, making it a 4-3 game.

It would be the Wild Things turn in the fifth inning to plate a run when Matt Ford came through yet again for the Wild things, pushing the lead back up to 5-3.

But they say the third time is the charm and it was so in this case for the Otters. The charmer for the Otters was none other than centerfielder Ronnie Richardson, who erased the two run deficit with one swing of the bat. With runners on first and second, Richardson sliced a double down the first base line, past the dive of Lee Orr and tying the game at 5-5. Richardson did not stop hustling on the play, winding up at third, taking advantage of a missed cutoff man. However, despite having the go-ahead run just 90 feet away without anybody out, the Otters could not drive in Richardson.

That left the game in the hands of the bullpen for the Otters and they turned it over to the man with the biggest hands on the team. The 6'6 Connor Little replaced Vail in the bottom of the sixth inning and proceeded to pitch 2.2 of scoreless baseball.

However, he could not get out of the bottom of the eighth inning, as a double chased him from the game. The Otters called on Blake Monar to get them out of the jam, and the lefty from Rockport, IN did just that, inducing a grounder to short to end the threat.

The two teams would trade zeroes in the ninth inning with Monar picking up two strikeouts to erase any idea of a scoring opportunity for the Wild Things. John Schultz would lead off the top of the tenth inning and make up for his earlier gaffe out in left field, by driving a double to right. After both Shayne Houck and Nik Balog failed to move him, Chris Sweeney came up and gave the Otters their first lead of the game with a single to center. After another walk to Wertz Jr., Allen came to the plate and for the third time in the game came through for the Otters, pushing across the seventh run on a single to left-center.

That last run was pivotal for the Otters because Edgar Lopez allowed an unearned run in the bottom of the tenth, but worked around the trouble to close the door and pick up his second save in as many chances.

The Otters bring their record back up to .500 at 2-2 on the season while the Wild Things drop to 1-3. Josh Allen finished the night 3-for-5 with three RBI including a home run. Ronnie Richardson plated two and collected his first double of the season while Blake Monar improves his record to 1-0 on the season, grabbing the win in relief.

The team is right back at it tomorrow night in Washington, PA with the game time at 6:05 CDT and the pregame starting at 5:45 CDT. You can listen live on our website and on at 91.5 F.M. WUEV if you are in the Evansville area.

The Otters will not be back to the friendly confines of Bosse Field until Friday when they will begin a three game home stand against the Florence Freedom. Fans can purchase tickets by calling the team's front office at 812.435.8686 or online at EvansvilleOtters.com.

For all of the latest information on the Otters, log on to EvansvilleOtters.com or follow the team's twitter account [@EvilleOtters](https://twitter.com/EvilleOtters).

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