

Jackals Set Franchise Home Run Record in 7-5 Win vs Sussex County

Little Falls, NJ — The penultimate Family Funday Sunday was a perfect day for baseball at Yogi Berra Stadium as the New Jersey Jackals (39-38) squared off against their vaunted rivals — the Sussex County Miners (44-33). After a difficult 16-2 loss the night before at Skylands Stadium, the stage was set for a cinematic finish to their third series of the season, and the home side did not disappoint, bashing their way to a 7-5 comeback victory to take the three game set.

New Jersey began the game with something to prove after allowing Sussex to take the first lead in the prior two contests. They flipped the script with a sharp ground ball by Dalton Combs to knock in Trevor Abrams and give the team a 1-0 lead.

Of course, no great story is complete without some adversity, as the Jackals would surrender the lead almost immediately, thanks to timely contact by Alex Toral and Miners' mainstay Martin Figueroa the next half inning. The deficit found itself at its steepest following an Oraj Anu RBI single to put New Jersey down 5-2 after the top of the seventh inning. Fortunately for the red and black, they still had a few plot twists up their sleeves.

It was showtime in the bottom of the seventh inning when Joe Simone cracked an RBI triple to right field, shifting the momentum slightly back in favor of his ball club. Then, following an RBI by Abrams, came the difference maker. A two run, blast to right field by Combs secured the lead for good, and gave the Jackals all they needed to wrap up the game.

But they weren't done yet...

The very next inning, team home run leader Josh Rehwaldt made team history, launching a no-doubter to right for New Jersey's 109th big fly of the season, eclipsing the Nick Giarraputo led 2012 team's 108 mark that stood for nearly a decade.

In addition to stellar offense by several of the all-stars in the lineup, the supporting cast of bullpen arms did their part to shut down the opposition. Hansel Rodriguez and Jose A. Ramirez combined to toss 2.1 innings of scoreless baseball, letting up just two hits and a walk while adding a strikeout to earn their third win and fifth save respectively.

With the victory, the Jackals moved back above .500, kept pace with the leaders in the playoff hunt, and took the season series lead 5-4 over the Miners. Their next task will be taking down the New York Boulders beginning Tuesday, August 16th at 7:05pm. An audio stream of the game will available at mixlr.com/njjackals.