

# NEWPORT GULLS BASEBALL

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*"RAISING THE BAR IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL"*

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## Bullpen leads way to Gulls' fourth straight win

NEWPORT, R.I. – Relief pitchers Bryce Mooney, Jamie Degidio and Mike Seander combined to throw 4.2 scoreless innings and the offense produced just enough scoring as the Newport Gulls defeated the Pittsfield Dukes 3-2 in New England Collegiate Baseball League action Monday.

Newport (4-0) trailed 2-1 in the bottom of the top of the fifth when Mooney (1-0) came on in relief of starter Jared Yecker with runners on first and second with one out. Mooney got Pittsfield cleanup hitter Jim MacDonald to hit into a double play to end the inning.

Mooney pitched a spotless sixth before giving way to Degidio, who struck out three batters over the next two innings. Seander hit pinch hitter Nelson Gomez to lead off the ninth, but retired the next three batters to earn his first save of the season.

"Pitching is everything in this game, and our bullpen has been giving us great outings thus far," Gulls manager Mike Coombs said. "Wins are very difficult to come by, but the team has played well."

After squandering chances all night, the Gulls scratched out two runs against Pittsfield (0-4) relief pitcher Mike DiCato (0-1) in the bottom of the sixth to take the lead for good. Gerry Spessard led off with a double and came in on a one-out RBI single by Matt Ianetta to tie the score. After Ianetta was caught stealing for the second out, Gabriel Saade worked a walk and stole second base. Matt Vance (2-for-3, 2 walks) reached on an infield single, and when the throw from third baseman Tyler Stampone bounced by first base, Saade came in with the winning run. It was the third error of the night for Stampone.

Newport had at least two batters reach base in six different innings, but struggled to score. The Gulls left 10 runners on base. They also hit into two double plays, had two runners caught stealing and had a runner thrown out at the plate.

"It was a tough night offensively, but the bottom line in getting the win, and we were able to do that," Coombs said.

There was a scary moment in the sixth inning when Newport's Michael Burgher was hit in the face with a pitch. Burgher walked off the field under his own power, but was replaced by pinch runner Jonathan White. Burgher was doing well after the game.

Newport is on the road for games at Manchester (Tuesday, June 12) and Danbury (Thursday, June 13) before returning home to host Manchester on Friday, June 15 (6:35 p.m.).

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