

# NEWPORT GULLS BASEBALL

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*"RAISING THE BAR IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Newport Takes Game To Lead Series 1-0

**Newport, RI-** Third baseman Joey Bergman smacked a 1-2 pitch from Kaleb Merck and put it over the centerfield fence as he hit a grand slam, capping the Gulls eight run eighth inning to take a commanding 12-6 lead and 1-0 series lead.

The game started out with New Bedford starter Will Jolin incurring an injury to his arm. He was taken out during a 2-2 count against catcher Mike Melillo at the plate and was relieved by Connor Little, the scheduled game three starter. After fouling off the first pitch from Little, Melillo smacked a two run home run over the right field fence to give the Gulls a 2-0 lead.

The Bay Sox showed some resilience as they battled back to score two runs in the following inning to tie the game up. Newport starter Andrew Kittredge allowed a leadoff walk followed by a bloop single over third baseman Joey Bergman's head. Right fielder Jeff Macchi followed that up with a two run single to tie the game at two.

In the fifth inning, Andrew Kittredge was just one out away from getting out of the inning without any damage but Pierce Rankin ruined things for Kittredge as he hit a two run home run, deep over the left field fence, giving the Bay Sox a 4-2 lead.

In almost the same situation with two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning for, Aaron Westlake and the Newport Gulls responded with a two run home run of their own, tying the game back up at four runs apiece.

Brandon Garcia kept up the theme of the game going as he hit a two run home run off of reliever Geoff Brown to give New Bedford another two run lead. Garcia hit the 1-2 pitch over the right field fence, also scoring Macchi who reached on a single to lead off the inning.

All was quiet until the eighth inning when Derek Jones took a walk. Troy Scott followed that up with a single. Shortstop Tim Smalling then loaded the bases with another single.

Melillo came up to the plate and hit a fly ball to left field that was not caught by left fielder Chris Famiglietti and brought the Gulls within one run at 6-5. Second baseman Greg Garcia followed that up with a two run single.

Centerfielder T.J. Mittelstaedt then took a walk to load the bases again. After an RBI single by centerfielder Sean Paino, Bergman hit the aforementioned grand slam as the Gulls took a 12-6 lead.

Closer Matt Branham gave up a run in the ninth inning but still secured a 12-7 victory for Newport as Brown collected the win for Newport

The Gulls will play game two of the series on Monday August 3 in New Bedford at 6:30. If they win, they will advance to the next round, starting on Wednesday. If they Gulls do not succeed, they will play game three in Newport on Tuesday August 4.

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