

# NEWPORT GULLS BASEBALL

Post Office Box 777 Newport, Rhode Island 02840 (T) 401-849-4982 (F) 401-849-4987

*"RAISING THE BAR IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information: Nick Tasso,  
nicholas.tasso@gmail.com

## Gulls Advance to NECBL Finals With 3-1 Win

**Newport, RI-** On the fourth pitch of the at bat, leftfielder Derek Jones hit the ball to deep right center field for his first hit and first home run of the post season. The home run gave the Gulls a 2-1 lead as they went on to win 3-1, beating the Sanford Mainers 2-1 in a best of three playoff series to advance to the NECBL Finals against the Vermont Mountaineers.

This will mark the Newport Gulls seventh appearance in the NECBL Finals since becoming the Newport Gulls in 2001. Newport has lost the last two NECBL finals to the Sanford Mainers in 2008, and to the Vermont Mountaineers, their opponent this year, in 2007. The Gulls look to win their first NECBL championship since 2005.

The Mainers put up a solo run in the first inning but that was all that they could muster against the Newport Gulls pitching staff. Matt Marra collected the only RBI for the Sanford Mainers as Mark Micowski scored on a fielders' choice off of starter Dean Wolosiansky.

It didn't take long for the Gulls to respond as Mike Kaminski led off the second inning with a solo home run to tie it up.

Wolosiansky pitched an effective 5.1 innings as he only gave up one run while allowing ten hits and striking out four batters. After Wolosiansky found himself in a bases loaded one out jam, manager Mike Coombs went to the pen, replacing Wolosiansky with Chad Arnold with the score dead locked at 1-1.

Arnold made his first appearance out of the bullpen as he had been suffering from some elbow in the tight jam. He reared back to get Micowski and Tucker Nathans to both strike out to end the inning. On Nathans strike out, catcher Mike Melillo made a heads up play to touch home plate for the third out instead of having to make the throw to first after the ball got away from him.

Arnold kept everything all squared as he went 2.2 innings while allowing only one base runner on a four pitch walk to the left fielder Adam Matthews. Arnold also struck out six Sanford batters as he got his first win of the post season.

After Jones hit the go ahead home run, starter Kyle Davis hit second baseman Greg Garcia on an off speed pitch and was promptly replaced by Neil Holland. Holland did allow the inherited runner to score on a four pitch walk as the Gulls loaded the bases.

Closer Matt Branham came on to finish things off in the ninth inning and did not allow a run as he gave up a hit to the leadoff batter Micowski. Branham got first baseman Mike Roth to strike out to end the game, propelling the Gulls to the NECBL Finals.

Game one of the finals against the Vermont Mountaineers will be played at Cardines Field on August 8. The game is scheduled to start at 6:35. Game two will be in Mountpelier, Vermont on August 9. If there is a game three, it will be held at Cardines Field on August 10 at 6:35.

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