

Muskrats topple Steeplecats to begin 2022

By Zachary Wilson

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LACONIA, NH (AP) - The Winnipesaukee Muskrats (1-0) began a new season of summer baseball on Wednesday night, and it was a season-opener they could not be more proud of.

The Muskrats went on the road to face the North Adams SteepleCats (0-2) at Joe Wolfe Field to begin the first of two meetings this summer. The Muskrats' Opening Day pitcher was Kyle Roche (1-0), who was a sophomore this past season at Franklin Pierce, while the SteepleCats put Cory Bosenker (0-1), a junior from Butler, on the mound for North Adams' second game of the season.

They also began the season under a new manager, Ariel Ramos, who has experience in the NECBL as a pitching coach for the North Shore Navigators in 2019 and served the same role for the Nashua Silver Knights of the PGCBL in 2020.

The Muskrats put Bosenker into early trouble by picking up five runs in the first two innings of the game, starting with Ian Battipaglia, a shortstop from Franklin Pierce, drawing a bases-loaded walk to drive in the first run of the game. Two more runs came in for the Muskrats in that inning, both unearned. Another unearned run came in for the Muskrats during the second inning.

Jacob Corson, an infielder from Bucknell, added a couple of RBIs in the sixth while coming off the bench to drive in Tyler Grodell and Matt Brown-Eiring and lead the team in RBIs on the night.

Roche, who was named to the Northeast-10 First Team All-Conference, pitched a perfect game into the sixth inning while striking out eight batters during his outing, giving up two hits and three runs, all unearned, and allowing one walk.

With the win, the Muskrats move to 1-0 to begin their season as they will stay on the road and face their cross-state rival, Keene SwampBats, at the Alumni Field in Keene tomorrow at 6:37 PM.