

Muskrats walk it off over Upper Valley at home

LACONIA, NH - Out of all the wins the Muskrats have produced entering tonight's contest, none of them have come in walk-off fashion, until now.

Winnipesaukee (10-10) is coming off a 8-3 win at home over Sanford to begin the month of July as they prepared to host Upper Valley Nighthawks (11-10) for the first time this season after the first three meetings of the season took place at the Maxfield Sports Complex in White River Junction, VT.

Chris Flynn from Roger Williams University came on to the mound for his first start of the summer after he came in for relief in his first five appearances of the summer, most recently last Friday against North Shore, while Upper Valley put Tommy Peltier of Canisius College on the mound as he faced the Muskrats for the second time this season after his last appearance against them came last month in the first meeting of the season.

The scoring started in the bottom of the first inning when Cristian Mercedes of Southern New Hampshire drove in Matt Alifano on an RBI single to give the Muskrats the first lead of the game. After there was no run for either side in the second inning, Max Grant for Upper Valley got the Nighthawks on the board with a three-run homer to give Upper Valley a two-run lead before Michael Borrelli drove in a run to cut the deficit to one.

Jonathan Hogart hit another home run for the Nighthawks in the fourth to give his team a two-run lead again before Zach DeMattio once again cut the Muskrats' deficit to one on another RBI single.

After the fifth inning, Alex Kafka from Morehead State came in to relieve Chris Flynn after he concluded his night with five hits, four runs, three earned, and seven strikeouts. Kafka pitched four innings and gave up one run and three hits, allowing the Muskrats to tie the game in the bottom of the eighth off an RBI single by Brendan Concannon.

After Kafka went 1-2-3 in the ninth to keep the game tied, Cristian Mercedes came back to the plate to face Chic DeGaetano from Villanova. After facing two balls and two strikes, on the next pitch, Mercedes lifted the ball to the wall out deep at left field to give Winnipesaukee's first walk-off win of the season.

With that win, the Muskrats guaranteed a season-series win over Upper Valley after moving to 4-0 against them, despite three games left to play against them.

The Muskrats get their tenth win of the season and have now won three of their last four games as they will head back on the road to play a doubleheader in Bristol, CT, tomorrow against the Bristol Blues of the West Division, starting at 2:30 PM.

Muskrats by the Numbers

- Chris Flynn went 5 IP and struck out a season-high 9 batters
- Alex Kafka pitched the final 4 innings of the game, giving up 1 ER
- Christian Mercedes led the team with 2 RBIs, including a walk-off in the 9th inning

Up Next

The Muskrats head down to Connecticut tomorrow for a doubleheader with the Bristol Blues, starting at 2:30 PM

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