

Saints Take Series Over Plainsmen

After splitting their season opening double header with the Northeastern Plainsmen on Saturday at Brent Gould Field, the Seward County Saints picked up a series win with a sweep of both games Sunday in Liberal to start the season 3-1. Game three of the series was an exciting one as the teams would trade runs early on and would remain deadlocked at 1 going to the 6th inning. The Plainsmen would explode for 6 runs in the 6th as they chased Seward starter Jose Gonzalez out of the game and then greeted the Saints bullpen with three straight hits to go up 7-1. Seward would chip away in the bottom of the frame with 4 runs to cut the deficit to 7-5 and give themselves a chance in the final inning. In the 7th Northeastern would get a second home run from Alex Schrupp to extend their lead to 8-5 but a gesture as he rounded the bases did not sit well with the Saints and it would be the fire the guys in green needed in the bottom half of the inning. Trailing 9-5 with just 3 outs left, Seward would flip the light switch on. Jordan Dallalio would walk to lead things off and the Saints would string together three singles behind that to score a run and load the bases with nobody out. Steve Polito would lace his second hit in as many inning up the middle to score a pair of runs and the game was all tied up at 8 and Seward was still in business with 2 on and no out in the inning. After a fielder's choice moved runners to 1st and 3rd, Jake Barrios would come up and launch a 1-1 pitch off the right center field wall to give the Saints the 9-8 walkoff win. Willy Gustin would finish 4 for 4 for the Saints in the win while Tyler Hill, Polito, and Jon Mestas would all finish with multi hit games as well.

In the final game of the series it would again be Northeastern that got on the board first as they scratched out a run in the 1st against Saints starter Gavin Glanz who was toeing the mound for the first time in a collegiate game Sunday. The Saints would answer in the bottom half as Polito and Gustin opened the Seward half of the 1st with singles and would later come around to score along with two other Saints in the inning to take a 4-1 lead. Northeastern would get 2 in the 3rd but the Saints would get a pair of their own as Ben Wainwright smacked a double off the center field wall to bring in Mestas and Barrios to make it 6-3 Seward. The Saints would keep the pressure on in the 4th inning as they would capitalize on erratic Northeastern pitching, picking up 3 walks in the inning, helping lead to 4 runs as they found themselves on top 10-3. The Plainsmen would score once in the 5th while the Saints would score a pair as the score sat at 12-4 going into the 6th. After Glanz worked a 1-2-3 top of the 6th, the Saints would take full advantage of a one out error by the Plainsmen, scoring a pair of two out runs to force the run rule once again 14-4. Barrios would lead the way at the plate for Seward, going 3 for 4 with 3 RBI's while Wainwright would smack a pair of doubles and finish 2 for 4 with 3 RBI's and Gustin would end the afternoon 2 for 3 with 3 runs

scored. Glanz would go the distance in his first collegiate win, allowing just 3 earned runs on 6 hits while striking out 2.

The Saints will be back in action for the third straight day Monday at Brent Gould Field when they take on defending National Champions Iowa Western at 12:00 and 2:30. (Roy Allen)

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