

Bristol's Niedzwiecki extinguishes a nuisance

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL – The Terryville Legion baseball team has been a bit of an irritant as of late to the Bristol Legion squad.

But the way to stop an irritant in baseball is through a healthy dose of pitching.

There's where Bristol ace Mat Niedzwiecki came in.

Niedzwiecki pitched a complete game effort, yielding only four hits while punching out six batters, as Bristol closed out its home portion of the campaign with a 3-1 victory over

Terryville in a Zone One showdown.

It was hard for Terryville to keep up with the speedy Niedzwiecki (5-1) as he kept himself ahead of the count, did not allow a bases-on-balls and allowed only one unearned run.

"I'll tell you what, today was all about Niedzwiecki," said Bristol coach Dave Nocera. "He pitched a great game. We actually had Niedzwiecki (scheduled) to pitch against Avon and Craig (Lejeune) pitching today but we decided to flip-flop them because Craig had pitched against Terryville a couple times before. We wanted to give

American Legion

Terryville a different look."

And even when Terryville posted multiple hits in the final inning of play, becoming a two-out rally of sorts as runners were on second and first, nothing came it as one last ground-ball out ended the contest in a hurry.

"It was important that he got his work in today," said Nocera of Niedzwiecki. "He threw a quality game. He threw his fastball, curveball in his spots and I was

extremely pleased with his approach."

Terryville pitcher Marsh Szyndlar hung around for a complete game effort as well and struck out nine in six innings of work.

But the hurler also walked seven batters, as well, two of which led to critical runs for Bristol in the contest.

Post 2 tacked on two runs early in the contest and seemingly never looked back.

Matt Maynard reached base via error and a walk to Craig Lejeune put two runners on with only one out.

From there, Austin Howard drilled a single to

right as both Maynard and Lejeune tagged home-plate to stake Bristol to an early 2-0 push after one frame.

In the second, Joe Randall walked with two outs, advanced to second off a past-ball and scored off a blazing single by Nick Palmisano to left as Bristol led 3-0 after two complete stanzas.

Bristol got in trouble in the fourth inning as three infield errors led to Terryville's Matt Donofrio netting a run to cut the deficit to 3-1.

"I was not happy at all the way we played defense today," said Nocera. "We basically put Terryville right

back in the ballgame. We made errors at all three infield positions and they were critical errors. It forced (the infielders) to work harder and I wasn't really happy at all with that."

But Niedzwiecki wouldn't allow any additional offense as Terryville went down quietly 1-2-3 in the fifth and sixth innings before putting together that late rally in the seventh that eventually was snuffed out.

"All and all, I wasn't overly pleased with the way we played today but I was very happy with Niedzwiecki's performance," said Nocera.

Greeners hang on to first place in Tri-State

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

Despite a rocky road to start the week of July 11, the Bristol Greeners of the Tri-State Baseball League remain in first-place of the Central Division with a record of 10-8.

The Tri-Town Trojans are nipping at Bristol's collective heels but remain in second place at 9-9, one game out of first place.

On July 11, the Trojans

blasted Bristol for 17 hits as Tri-Town grabbed a 14-1 decision from Litchfield's Community Field.

An eight-run sixth inning sank Bristol and three Trojan pitchers held the Greeners to a combined five hits in the contest.

On the Bristol front, veteran Chris Klepps tallied a double and a run to pace the Greeners' attack.

Things were looking a bit brighter on July 15 when

Tri-State League

the Greeners took on Terryville but things fell apart during an extra frame.

In the eighth inning, the Terryville Black Sox finally found a way to shake the Greeners.

An RBI double by Jim Mischke in the proved to be

the game winner as Bristol dropped a tough 4-3 decision at old Terryville High School.

Matt Godbout and Ryan Dudzinski each doubled for Bristol while starting pitcher Mike Hay picked up a no-decision.

Closer David Casanova absorbed the loss for the Greeners.

The Greeners finally pulled through on Saturday at Bristol Central High

School, defeating Waterbury 10-5.

Dan Rosa picked up the victory in a six-inning stint of work. He struck out five batters and allowed only three hits in the contest.

Mike Zammett led the Bristol charge with a 2-of-4 performance that included three RBI.

Dru Sgro tallied a hit and two RBI, Shawn Mirmina had a hit and two RBI and Steve Ziogas

punched home a hit, two base-on-balls and an RBI.

Here's the Greeners upcoming schedule (four games are left, two were scheduled for July 20, after press time):

July 23 at Naugatuck Dogs, 8 p.m., Waterville Park

July 25 at Tribury Pavers, 11 a.m., Nonnewaug High School

Bristol Collegiates keep busy: Beat Holyoke; top North Adams 3-2

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

The Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club had a busy slate of action for the week ending July 17.

Here's a quick recap of all the action:

July 11: It took extra innings but Bristol broke through in the 13th inning to grab a 5-4 victory at Holyoke on Sunday.

Bristol's own Mitch Rossi pitched up his first victory in relief and was brilliant in a five inning stint that saw the former Bristol Central hurler yield only four hits and two walks while striking out six batters.

Mike Gallic led Bristol with three hits while Eric Fredette and Kevin Mager each collected two hits in the contest.

The visitors trailed 4-0 after five but scored three runs in the sixth as Bristol got back into the contest.

July 12: Bristol split a doubleheader with Lowell,

winning the first contest 2-1 while dropping the second 6-1.

In game one, Bristol scratched across two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to take command of the game.

From there, the pitching tandem of Kevin Pettine (4-1, 2.38 ERA) and closer Tucker Healy (save) got the job done for Bristol.

Joe Martin, Kevin McDonnell, Kyle Nisson and Gallic each tallied a hit for the BCBC.

In game two, Lowell banged out 13 hits on its way to a 6-1 victory.

Bristol was once again limited to four hits in the game while pitcher Alex Smith (0-3) absorbed a tough loss in four innings of work (4 runs, 3 Ks).

July 15: Gallic tallied three hits and led Bristol's charge, defeating North Adams 3-2 from Muzzy Field.

Mike Fransoso and Nisson each banged out two

hits in Bristol's 10-hit onslaught.

Pat Lowery (1-2) earned his first victory of the season while Rossi pitched a quick ninth frame, collecting his sixth save on the year to go along with two strikeouts.

Multiple errors did-in the Steeplecats in the sixth frame as Nisson and Fransoso crossed the plate to give Bristol its 3-2 edge.

July 16: Bristol dropped a 6-3 decision to Sanford on Friday as the home team grabbed a 4-0 cushion before the BCBC could even get on the board.

Bristol scored two runs in the top of the sixth to make it a 4-2 game but key runs by Sanford in the sixth and eighth stanzas proved to be too great to overcome.

Designated hitter Stephen Maier led the Bristol offense with two hits while Kevin Mager drove in Bristol's only run of the contest.

July 17: A nightmarish eighth inning doomed the

Westerners at Muzzy Field on Saturday night as Bristol defeated Danbury 4-2 to crawl back over .500 on the season.

With the game tied at 2-2, Danbury errors forced in Nisson and Scott Kelleher to give Bristol Collegiate a 4-2 edge after eight innings.

From there, Rossi closed the game and earned his second victory on the campaign.

For the season, Rossi is 2-0 with an outstanding 2.00 ERA.

Gallic came up big with two hits against Danbury while Fransoso had a hit and drove in two runs.

Bristol finished the week with a 17-16 ledger.

Bristol's up-coming schedule is as follows for this week:

Saturday, July 24
Vermont
7 p.m.

Sunday, July 25
New Bedford
7 p.m.



TAMMI KNAPIK

NECBL reaches out to kids

Players from the Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club visited the children's department at the Bristol Public Library to read to the children and answer questions.

Tuesday, July 27
at Danbury
6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 28
Keene
7 p.m.

Friday, July 30
at Vermont
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 29
Holyoke

Saturday, July 31
at Keene
7 p.m.

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