



For Immediate Release

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SERRO SETTLES IN AS JACKALS MAKE IT EIGHT STRAIGHT

Little Falls, NJ – After allowing three runs over the game's first three innings, Jackals' right-hander Ted Serro held the American Defenders of New Hampshire scoreless over the next five frames as the New Jersey Jackals came from behind to win their eighth consecutive game by a score of 5-3 on Friday night at Yogi Berra Stadium. With the win, the Jackals (12-8) retain sole possession of first place in the Can-Am League.

The Defenders (9-11) struck Serro early, jumping out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when left fielder Jerod Edmondson scored on an RBI groundout off the bat of first baseman Jabe Bergeron. In the second, New Hampshire made it 2-0 when center fielder Edward Ovalle doubled with two outs and came plateward on an RBI single by rookie catcher Zane Chavez. An inning later, Defenders' second baseman Boomer Berry led off with a walk and later scored when Bergeron lifted a sacrifice fly to extend New Hampshire's lead to 3-0.

Following the walk to Berry, Serro (3-1) settled down and retired the next 17 consecutive batters he faced en route to earning the win in the longest outing by a New Jersey starter this season. In total, the Brooklyn, NY native tossed eight innings and allowed three runs on four hits with two walks and five strikeouts.

The Jackals, who left 10 runners on base during the contest, plated three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to even the score. New Jersey shortstop Mike DeJesus began the frame by reaching on an error by Defenders' shortstop Argenis Tavaréz. After New Hampshire starter Miguel Flores hit right fielder Quinn Stewart with a pitch, a single by first baseman Myron Leslie loaded the bases for designated hitter Juan Tejeda, who drew a walk to force in a run and make it a 3-1 game. The next batter, catcher Matt Lauderdale, used a sacrifice fly to plate Stewart and cut the deficit to 3-2 before Tejeda crossed the plate on an infield single by third baseman Mike Scanzano to tie the game at 3-3.

With New Hampshire reliever Luis Ramos on the hill in the bottom of the seventh, a go-ahead single by Scanzano scored Tejeda and gave New Jersey a 4-3 advantage. Ramos (2-1) took the loss after allowing one run on two hits in 1 2/3 innings.

The Jackals added an insurance run in the bottom of the eighth inning when second baseman Marcus Sanders scored on a Stewart sacrifice fly to extend the New Jersey lead to 5-3.

Closer Rusty Tucker entered in the top of the ninth and hurled a perfect frame to earn his league-leading seventh save of the season. Tucker, who has recorded saves in seven of eight games during New Jersey's current winning streak, has allowed just two hits in 10 2/3 scoreless innings this year.

Flores, who received a no-decision, was ejected by home plate umpire Chris Pincin with one out in the seventh inning after allowing three runs – one earned – on six hits while walking five batters and striking out one.

Offensively for New Jersey, Scanzano went 3-for-4 with a pair of RBIs while Leslie finished the night 2-for-4. DeJesus added his fourth double of the season in a 1-for-3 effort at the plate.

Jackal Bites: New Jersey's eight-game winning streak is three shy of the Can-Am League record of 11, set by the North Shore Spirit in 2006... New Jersey's team record for longest winning streak is 13, set in 2002 when the team was a member of the Northeast League... After allowing just three runs over the previous 27 innings, the Jackals' pitching staff has lowered its June ERA to 3.66 – the lowest in the league... After flying out twice with the bases loaded tonight, New Jersey is just 2-for-17 with the bases full this season... The Jackals are 3-2 against the Defenders in 2009 after splitting their season-opening, four-game series in Nashua, NH.

The Jackals and Defenders continue their three-game series on Saturday night at 7:05 p.m. at Yogi Berra Stadium when New Jersey sends right-hander and former second round pick Stuart Pomeranz (2-1, 4.32 ERA) to the hill against New Hampshire righty Luis Valdez, who will be making his first start of the season. Last season with Les Capitales de Quebec, Valdez went 9-4 and finished second in the Can-Am League with a 2.49 ERA. New Jersey dropped both meetings against Valdez in 2008, scoring two unearned runs and collecting just four hits in 10 innings against the Dominican Republic native. Cody Chrusciel and Joey Whelan have the call of the game with the live webcast beginning 15 minutes prior to first pitch at www.jackals.com.

The New Jersey Jackals, proud members of the Canadian-American Association of Professional Baseball, play their home games at Yogi Berra Stadium located on the campus of Montclair State University in Little Falls, NJ. 2009 season tickets, mini-plans and group outings are available by calling 973-746-7434. Visit the Jackals online at www.jackals.com.

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