



GATEWAY GRIZZLIES

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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GRIZZLIES BLOW BIG LEAD, GET SWEEP

Gateway finishes season series 8-4 against Joliet in 2025

SAUGET, ILL. – The Gateway Grizzlies had a 7-1 lead after two innings, but squandered the early advantage in a 12-10 slugfest loss to the Joliet Slammers that completed a four-game sweep. Despite the defeat, the Grizzlies finished 2025 with an 8-4 record against the Slammers as the season series is concluded.

With two outs in the bottom of the first and the bases loaded, **Victor Castillo** hit a grand slam home run to right field off Joliet starter Aidan McEvoy, giving the Grizzlies their very first lead of the series at 4-0. After Braylin Marine hit a solo homer to right field to make it 4-1, **Dale Thomas** hit a three-run shot to right-center field, putting the Grizzlies ahead by six.

That is when things began to go downhill. After **Gage Vailes** got the first two men out in the top of the third, he surrendered four straight hits, with an error attached to the fourth knock plating a second run in the frame after an RBI single by Marine, making the score 7-3.

In the next inning, after an **Edwin Mateo** RBI double got a run back and made the score 8-3, Vailes walked Liam McArthur with one out, and surrendered a two-run homer to Ian Battipaglia (his third of the series and the season), to make it 8-5. But the inning continued, and after Bryant Flete singled, the Grizzlies failed to turn a double play on a ground ball to shortstop, and Antonio Valdez doubled on the next pitch. A wild pitch then brought in another run to make the score 8-6.

D.J. Stewart would hit his second homer of the series in the following frame, a solo shot to increase the advantage to 9-6 as Gateway answered back again, but in the top of the sixth, with two outs, **Alvery De Los Santos** surrendered a two-run homer to Jose Contreras, making it a one-run game. In the seventh, the wheels would fall off, as a leadoff walk and error by **Mark Shallenberger** at first base opened the door for a four-run inning, with the Grizzlies falling behind 12-9.

Thomas led off the bottom of the seventh with a double, and scored two batters later on an RBI groundout by Stewart to make it 12-10, and **Abdiel Diaz** hit the Grizzlies' fourth homer of the game in the bottom of the ninth to draw them back within a run at 12-11, but the Grizzlies could not get closer in suffering their first series sweep of three games or more in over two calendar years.

Now having lost five of their last six games, the Grizzlies will look to bounce back against the Windy City ThunderBolts on Friday, August 1, with first pitch at 6:30 p.m. CT.

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The Gateway Grizzlies are a professional baseball team, located a mere 10 minutes from downtown St. Louis in Sauget, Illinois. The Grizzlies offer baseball fans affordable, family fun at Arsenal BG Ballpark with a great view of the St. Louis skyline. They have also won two Frontier League Organization of the Year Awards, four West Division titles, and the 2003 Frontier League Championship. For tickets or general information, please visit gatewaygrizzlies.com or call (618) 337-3000.

The Frontier League debuted in 1993, and is the largest of the Major League Baseball Partner Leagues, featuring teams stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, and from the Ohio River to the St. Lawrence Seaway. More information and the complete 2025 schedule can be found at frontierleague.com.