



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2022

Miners Drop Series Opener to Boulders, 12-4

New York breaks open a close game with seven-run ninth inning

AUGUSTA, N.J. – The Sussex County Miners saw a one-run game slip away late as the New York Boulders erupted for seven runs in the ninth inning to claim a 12-4 victory in the opener of a three-game series Friday night at Skylands Stadium.

The loss dropped the Miners to 19-25 on the season, while the Boulders improved to 28-18 and extended their winning streak to seven games.

New York struck first in the opening inning when designated hitter Jason Agresti launched his eighth home run of the season to give the visitors an early 1-0 lead.

Sussex County answered immediately in the bottom half of the inning. Hunter D'Amato reached on a single before Gabriel Maciel advanced on a fielder's choice. Sean Roby Jr. and Keenan Taylor each drew walks to load the bases, setting up Dean Ferrara, who lined an RBI single into right field to even the score. Later in the frame, Evan Berkey delivered a two-out RBI single to center, plating Roby Jr. and giving the Miners a 2-1 advantage.

After both clubs stranded scoring opportunities in the second, the Boulders reclaimed the lead in the fourth. Kyle Hess singled and John Schroeder followed with a ground-rule double before Norris McClure drove both runners home with a two-run double down the right-field line, putting New York in front 3-2.

The visitors added to their lead in the sixth. Hess worked a walk, stole second base, and scored on McClure's RBI single before Julian Boyd drove home McClure with an RBI double, extending the Boulders' advantage to 5-2.

The Miners responded in the bottom of the sixth to pull within a run. Edwin Mateo singled and Sandro Gaston followed with an RBI double to center field. After Will Zimmerman advanced Gaston to third with a sacrifice bunt, D'Amato brought him home with a groundout, trimming the deficit to 5-4.

Sussex County's bullpen kept the game within reach through the seventh and eighth innings, highlighted by Tristian Harley escaping a seventh-inning threat with a strikeout and groundout after New York had runners in scoring position.

The game unraveled in the ninth as the Boulders sent 13 batters to the plate. New York capitalized on a hit batter, walks, timely hits, and a Miners error to score seven times, highlighted by RBI hits from Fritz Genter, Julian Boyd, Santiago Russo, and Jason Agresti, turning a one-run contest into a 12-4 final.

Kellen Brothers turned in a competitive start for Sussex County, allowing five runs while keeping the Miners within striking distance through six innings. Offensively, Ferrara, Berkey, Gaston, D'Amato, and Mateo each drove in a run as Sussex County collected enough offense to stay close before the late inning surge.

The Miners will look to even the series on Wednesday night at Skylands Stadium. First pitch is scheduled for **7:05 p.m.**

Box Score:

<https://pro.iscorecentral.com/FL/games/de05153a-1736-48da-94bd-d400b32ad643>

Written by Justin Shepard with Scott Davies

ABOUT THE SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS

The Sussex County Miners are proud members of the Frontier League, an MLB Partner League and the largest and longest-running independent baseball league in the United States. Their combination of competitive baseball and wholesome family entertainment provide area residents with exciting fun in the crowded New Jersey/New York, Pennsylvania sports market.

Follow the Miners on Instagram and Facebook, as well as on their website: sussexcountyminers.com

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