

By: Ethan Hu

QUEBEC CITY, QC- In a back and forth game where it saw 20 total hits, the Sussex County Miners blew an early 3-2 lead and lost to the Quebec Capitales in the series finale at the Stade Canac.

Mahki Backstrom got things started for the Miners in the first, hitting an RBI single to score Gabriel Maciel and Will Zimmerman added another run in the second on an RBI walk to make it 2-0 early.

But Quebec wouldn't be shut out like last night, scoring in the second and third innings to tie the game at two before taking the lead for good in the fifth inning on an 2-RBI single from Ruben Castro.

Dom Johnson cut the lead to 4-3 in the sixth, but Quebec restored their two run lead off a Jesmuel Valentin double that scored Kyle Cowl and Justin Gideon, making it 6-4.

Despite outhitting the Capitales 12-9, the Miners couldn't find timely hits.

Jordan Smith went 4-4 with two runs scored and Backstrom went 3-5 for the Miners as the rest of the offense combined for five hits.

Mike Reagan had a uncharacteristic start, pitching for 5 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, giving up six hits and being responsible for all six Quebec runs, earning the loss. On the opposite side, Braeden Allemann threw for 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings, giving up six hits and three runs, earning a no decision.

Brodie Cooper Vassalakis earned the win for the Capitales, tossing 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, giving up a run on three hits.

Quebec's bullpen allowed no runs on three hits the rest of the way.

Another series between the Frontier League's top two teams comes to a close, with the Miners (27-12) and the Capitales (31-8) looking to finish the season strong and play for a championship.

Quebec will play a two game series against the Trois-Rivières Aigles in Trois-Rivières starting on Tuesday, June 24th.

The Miners will return home to take on the New Jersey Jackals in an interstate matchup starting on Tuesday, June 24th. You can stream the game live on the Frontier League Network at frontierleaguetv.com or listen on the radio at Mixlr.com/scminers.