

EPIC EIGHTH INNING VAULTS MINERS TO SERIES VICTORY

CRESTWOOD, Ill. — The Sussex County Miners rallied late, scoring 4 runs in the eighth inning en route to a 6-2 victory over the Windy City Thunderbolts. This marks their first series victory on the road of the 2025 season.

The Miners jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, as the fourth batter in the lineup, Sean Roby Jr., clobbered a two-run shot in the top of the first bringing home both himself and Makhi Backstrom for his 7th multi-RBI game this year.

However, the Thunderbolts would come back to tie it up with runs in the bottom of the second and third innings respectively with help from a pair of errors on Sussex County's end.

Miners starting pitcher Jackson Balzan dominated from here on out to keep the score knotted at 2-2. The lefty went seven innings pitched, allowing just three hits, tallying six strikeouts and, most importantly, giving up no earned runs.

From the third inning through the seventh, Sussex County went 13 straight batters without even reaching base, yet they were able to completely flip the script in the eighth inning. Catcher Ty Gilligan led off with a walk to break that streak and both Will Zimmerman and Hunter D'Amato followed suit right behind him. With the bases loaded and no outs, Gabriel Maciel brought in the leading run with a sacrifice fly to left field. Two straight walks would then load the bases once again and bring in a second run, giving the Miners a 4-2 lead. Alec Sayre's infield single and Gionti Turner's sacrifice fly to left closed out this game-changing offensive inning for Sussex County, bringing them to the bottom of the eighth with a four run lead.

Right-handed reliever Matt Stil picked up right where Balzan left off, striking out five batters and allowing no hits, runs or walks to secure the win for the Miners.

The Miners (13-5) will look for the road sweep of the Thunderbolts (3-15) Thursday night at 6:35pm.

Written by Jakob Schnur

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