

In the rubber match of a three game weekend series between the Sussex County Miners and Gateway Grizzlies, the Grizzlies found an offensive groove and overpowered the visiting Miners by a final score of 12-7 from Arsenal BG Ballpark on Sunday afternoon.

Gateway's offense found a spark early and often by way of Victor Castillo's bat. Castillo went a perfect 4-for-4, hitting an RBI double in the first then legging out a leadoff triple in the third. His second and third RBI of the day came via an RBI single in the bottom of the sixth, where the Grizzlies scored four runs to take the lead for good.

After Castillo's single, Dale Thomas took Miners' relief pitcher J.C. Ariza deep for a two-run home run and put his squad up 10-6. The Grizzlies tacked on two more insurance runs thanks to RBI singles from Cole Brannen and Castillo. Sean Roby Jr. drove in a run by way of a sacrifice fly in the 9th, but that was all she wrote.

Gateway as a team took it to the Miners pitchers the last two games of the series. For the Miners, Kellen Brothers got the start in this one and gave the club five innings of work. Unlike many of his starts this season, he ran into trouble, allowing six runs on nine hits. Right hander, JC Ariza pitched an inning but was also touched up four runs, his first earned runs of the year. Following a masterful out in Windy City, Ronnie Voacolo also ran into trouble and gave up two runs as Gateway continued its onslaught. In the eighth Matt Stil continued to get back on track, he allowed no runs and registered a strikeout with a pitch clocked at 97 miles per hour.

The Miners saw the ball well on Sunday, not only by scoring seven runs on eight hits, but by walking eight times as well. It was not enough in the end, but it is an encouraging trend nonetheless. Sean Roby Jr. and Dom Johnson had two hits apiece for the Miners. Roby drove in three runs on two hits.

Sussex County will get a two day break before returning to action at Skylands Stadium to host the Trois-Rivieres Aigles for a two game set.

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