

RedHawks Split NJAC-Opening Doubleheader With Rutgers-Newark

MONTCLAIR, N.J. — Montclair State and Rutgers-Newark opened New Jersey Athletic Conference play by splitting a doubleheader Sunday at Yogi Berra Stadium.

The Red Hawks cruised to a 13-4 victory in the opener before the Scarlet Raiders responded with a 9-7 extra-inning win in Game 2.

Montclair State's offense erupted in the first game, collecting 19 hits and scoring 13 runs. Ryan McKenna and Miles Feaster helped spark the attack as the Red Hawks pulled away after scoring two runs in the third inning. Rutgers-Newark briefly cut the deficit to 6-4 in the sixth, but Montclair answered with seven runs over the final three innings to secure the run-rule victory.

Game 2 was far more competitive. Rutgers-Newark jumped out to an early lead and built a 6-1 advantage after a four-run fourth inning that featured runs from Armando Alvarez, Aidan Sheehan, Reid Duffus and Gilroy Prial.

Montclair State chipped away throughout the game and tied the score 7-7 in the bottom of the ninth when Matt Kaliske delivered a game-tying RBI single with the bases loaded.

The Scarlet Raiders regained control in extra innings, taking advantage of a Montclair error to score two runs. Vince Taylor then retired the Red Hawks in order in the bottom half to seal the victory.

Eric Recchia led Rutgers-Newark in the second game, going 3 for 4 with two RBIs.

The split leaves both teams at 1-1 in NJAC play. Montclair State improved to 13-3 overall, while Rutgers-Newark moved to 16-5.

The teams will return to nonconference action in their next games, with Montclair State facing DeSales and Rutgers-Newark hosting Drew.