

2019 Mansfield Destroyers Recap

The inaugural regular season for the Mansfield Destroyers had its ups and downs. They started the season off with a win against Western Division foe Hornell Dodgers with a win 8-5 and ended the first short week of the season with a 3-2 record. The second week was a rough 3-4 record with two of the wins coming at the end of the week. The third week of the season the Destroyers came away with 3 wins, 3 losses, and 2 ties. The Destroyers were still finding themselves as a team and followed up with a record of 4-2 to end the month of June with a record of 13-11-2. The Destroyers suffered a four-game losing streak in June.

The first week in July the Destroyers came away with a record of 2-5 and lost all the momentum and first place in the division to Niagara. July 8th was the All-Star Game where the Destroyers had 3 named to the team. First baseman, Tyler Melko (Post University), middle infielder – Grant Vera (Kent St) & pitcher – Brendan Quigley (Siena College). The NYCBL team took down the ACBL by a score of 3-0. The second week in July was a short week of only 3 games and the Destroyers lost two of them to Division rivals, Niagara and Olean. The Destroyers now find themselves in third place in the Division and fighting hard for a playoff spot. The final week of the regular season the Destroyers went 4-2 to claim back the second seed and a home playoff game in Mansfield and ended July 7-9. The Destroyers put together a six-game win streak in July to put them back in contention. The Mansfield Destroyers led the league in home attendance with (10,483) with an average of (655) per game.

The Destroyers finished the regular season with a record of 20-20-2 which was good enough to clinch the #2 seed in the Western Division in their very first season as a franchise in the NYCBL. They had the fourth-best record in the 10-team league. The Destroyers had walk-off wins against the Rome Generals and Olean Oilers. They had six players earn 'Player of the Game' honors; Blake Murray (Pima CC), Eric Feliz (Embry-Riddle), Devan Nail (Kent St) & Colton Evans (UC Davis), AJ Gartland (Alfred State), and Mason Vaughan (Manhattan College). They had two players earn 'Player of the Week' honors; Tyler Melko (Post University) & Tim Carroll (Siena College). One player earned 'Pitcher of the Week' David Higginbotham (Samford University).

Eric Feliz led the league in doubles with (12). Andrew Walker (Xavier University) was 2nd in the league in both walks (28) and stolen bases (28) and led the Destroyers in games played (39). The Destroyers ended the regular season with 3 players in the top 25 in average. Tim Carroll (Siena College) was 7th, Eric Feliz was 17th and Andrew Walker 23rd. Four other players would have made the cut but didn't have enough plate appearances to qualify. Tyler Melko (.345), Grant Vera (.318), Devan Nail (.317) & Colton Evans (.310). Tim Carroll led the team in average (.352) and hits (38). Devan Nail led the Destroyers in power with (4) triples, (4) homeruns, (1) double to end the regular season with a (.573) slugging percentage. He also led the Destroyers in RBI's with (23). Brendan Quigley had an earned run average of (2.72) for third in the league and led the Destroyers with innings pitched (33) and strikeouts (35). Jake Spillane (UC Davis) was fourth in the league with a (3.00) and went 3-0 in the regular season. Kyle Smith (Ryder University) ended up with an ERA of (3.09) for fifth in the league and went 4-1 in the regular season with the lone loss coming in relief. Mason Vaughn had a record of 3-1 and finished second on the team with innings (32.1) pitched.

Playoffs:

Wildcard:

The Mansfield Destroyers race for the 2019 NYCBL Championship began on 7/23 as the #2 seed in the Western Division Wildcard game against #3 seed Olean Oilers. The Destroyers lost the regular season head to head games against the Oilers 2-5-1 and looked to knock them out of the playoffs with a win. Taking the hill for the Destroyers was Brendan Quigley (Siena College) who was third in NYCBL in earned run average of 2.72. The Oilers were the first to get on the board with a run in the top of the third when a walk forced in the lead off hitter. The Destroyers would take the lead in the bottom of the sixth when Colton Evans (UC Davis) singled to lead off the inning and two batters later Devan Nail (Kent St) drilled a homerun to left centerfield. The Oilers would tie the score in the top of the 8th with a double and single. Destroyers took the lead again in the bottom of the frame when Colton Evans scored on a sacrifice fly by Tim Carroll (Sienna College). Quigley pitched 8 strong innings allowing only 2 earned runs and 9 strikeouts. The Destroyers bullpen couldn't hold the lead in the 9th as an error, walk and wild pitch notches the game even at 3-3. Blake Murray (Pima CC) hits a single to right field with one out in the bottom of the 9th. Austin Schmitt (Jefferson College) hits a fly ball single to left field that the fielder can't find in the rain and Murray comes around to score the winning run. Blake Murray was the only Destroyers with multiple hits going 2 for 4 and Colton Evans scored two runs. This advances the Destroyers to take on Niagara Power in the best of 3 for the Western Division Championship.

Western Division Championship:

Game 1: Jake Spillane (US Davis) took the hill for the Destroyers with a regular season record of 3-0 and an ERA of 3.00 (fourth in the league). The Destroyers plated a run in the top of the first with a walk to Devan Nail and a double from Tim Carroll and a costly error by Niagara's right fielder. Jake would pitch six stellar innings of two hit ball with one walk, five strikeouts and no runs. The bullpen couldn't hold the lead as the Power scored five runs in the bottom of the 7th and never looked back. The Destroyers plated their second run in the top of the 8th with singles by Colton Evans and Andrew Walker (Xavier University) and a sacrifice fly by Devan Nail. But this was too little too late as the Power took game one by a score of 9-2. Andrew Walker went 3 for 4 and Tim Carroll had two hits.

Game 2

The Mansfield Destroyers win game 2 on Thursday night in Mansfield by a score of 11-5. Kyle Smith (Ryder University) pitched 7 strong innings allowing only 3 earned runs. Smith ended the season with a record of 5-1. Kipp Hillson (Cecil CC) came on to close out Niagara with 2 solid innings of 1 hit ball. The Destroyers pounded out 13 hits on the night. Leading Mansfield at the plate was Austin Schmitt (Jefferson College) going 3 for 4 with 2 RBI's. He hit a 2-run double in the bottom of the 3rd inning. Colton Evans (UC Davis) went 2 for 4 with 2 RBI's. Devan Nail (Kent St) 2 for 5 and Eric Feliz (Embry-Riddle University) also went 2 for 5 but also added 3 RBI's. With the win, the Destroyers force a third game to decide the NYCBL Western Division Champions.

Game 3

The Mansfield Destroyers trekked back up to Niagara where Mason Vaughn (Manhattan College) made the start on the hill. Unfortunately, by the end of the first frame, the Destroyers found themselves down 0-3. Mason would take the hard luck loss by a score of 10-1, giving up six earned runs in 1.1 innings. Kipp Hillson came on in relief in the second and pitched 6.2

innings. Kipp held the damage to a minimum allowing only three earned runs but the Power's bats were too much to contain. Destroyers managed eight hits but were too spread out to do any damage. Andrew Walker (Xavier University), Eric Feliz (Embry-Riddle University) and Michael Wein (Wake Forest University) each were 2 for 4 on the night. Feliz's one hit was a roped double to right field. Andrew Walker hit .400 in the NYCBL playoffs and Colton Evans hit .333 to lead the Destroyers in the post season.

| Western Division | Wins | Loses | Ties |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Niagara Power | 4 | 4 | |
| Olean Oilers | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Genesee Rapids | 5 | 3 | |
| Hornell Dodgers | 4 | 4 | |
| Totals | 15 | 16 | 1 |
| Eastern Division | Wins | Loses | Ties |
| Cortland Crush | 2 | 0 | |
| Rome Generals | 1 | 1 | |
| Syracuse Salt Cats | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Sherrill Silversmiths | 1 | 1 | |
| Syracuse Spartans | 1 | 1 | |
| Totals | 5 | 4 | 1 |