

MADISON, NJ (July 1, 2023) — The New Jersey Pilots continued a sudden midseason surge with a crisp 2-0 victory over the Ocean Ospreys in Game 1 of Saturday's double header. With the win, the Pilots have now taken the first two games of the four-game series, and are winners of three of their past four contests.

Right-handers Jacob Buurman and Louis Rivera baffled Osprey hitters all day long, combining for the seven-inning shut out.

Buurman, who drew the start, found himself locked in a pitcher's duel with Osprey starter Joseph Voli. Through four innings, neither team had scored, though each offense did squander a golden opportunity.

The Ospreys loaded the bases with two outs in the third inning on two walks and a hit by pitch, but Buurman regrouped to strike out first baseman R.J. Kernan on a high fastball, sidestepping trouble. In the bottom frame, the Pilots loaded the bases in the same fashion — two walks and a hit by pitch — but right fielder Nate Miller grounded out to third to retire the threat.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Voli finally cracked. Second baseman Connor Dreyer and shortstop Kevin Hager set the table on back-to-back singles to open the inning, and catcher Ethan Daddabbo gave New Jersey the lead with a sacrifice fly to center field.

An inning later, the Pilots added a much-needed insurance run, with centerfielder Tyler Stone lacing an RBI single into right field to score first baseman Jack Cariddi, who had reached on a hit by pitch.

Rivera entered for Buurman in the fifth inning, with the Pilots up 1-0, and the right-hander ensured that the lead held through to the finish. Rivera pitched two hitless innings, retiring six of the eight batters that he faced, to complete the shutout victory.

The Pilots look to push their win streak to a season-best three games Saturday afternoon, with Game 2 of the doubleheader slated for 3:30 p.m. ET. Pregame coverage begins on the Pilots Radio Network at 3:15.

