

NEPTUNE, NJ (June 29, 2023) — The New Jersey Pilots kicked off this week's four-game series with the Ocean Ospreys in thrilling fashion, orchestrating a come-from-behind 8-6 victory on Thursday night.

The Pilots rallied out of a 3-1 hole, ambushing Osprey starting pitcher Julian Salinas for six total runs across the fifth and sixth inning. Third baseman Liam Houghton tied the game at 3 with a two-run single down the left field line in the fifth. An inning later, Houghton struck again, lacing a double into the left-center field gap to score a pair. One pitch later, catcher Ethan Daddabbo capped off the barrage with a two-run home run that sailed over the right-center field fence.

Left-handed pitcher Hayden Strycharz ensured that the lead stuck with a stellar relief outing. Strycharz tossed four innings of three-run ball, walking just one hitter while fanning eight Osprey hitters.

The Ospreys mounted a furious two-out rally in the ninth inning, at one point bringing the tying run to the plate in the form of right fielder Thomas Kendrick. But Strycharz blew away Kendrick on three pitches, notching a strikeout to slam the door shut.

Ocean's offense touched up Pilots' starting pitcher Tyler Stone in the third inning to secure an early lead. Shortstop Tyler Minnick drove in a pair of runs on a hard hit ball to center field that eluded Pilots' centerfielder Robert Klawans, who broke in and then watched as the ball sailed over his head. Two batters later, third baseman Colin Quintano laced a double down the right field line to bring home Minnick and give the Ospreys a 3-1 lead.

From there, Stone kept Ocean's hitters at bay, finishing the day with a season-high eight strikeouts and setting the stage for New Jersey's eventual comeback.

With the 8-6 victory, the Pilots snapped a three-game losing streak. They'll look to win their second game in a row on Saturday, with right-hander Jacob Buurman slated to start Game 1 of the scheduled Double Header. First pitch for Game 1 is 1:00 p.m. ET, with pregame coverage beginning at 12:45 on the Pilots Baseball Radio Network.