

## **NJ Nationals Secure First Road Win of 2018**

Jeff Lombardi Jr.

Bergen, N.J.- In the first ever matchup between the two clubs, the New Jersey Nationals (2-1) came out victorious over the Bergen Mallers (0-1) on Wednesday night by a score of 5-2.

For the second straight game, the Nationals allowed their opponent to draw first blood, as Mallers sophomore third baseman, [Carlos Perez](#) (Hawthorne, N.J./William Paterson University) lead off the bottom of the second inning with a single and came around to score on a RBI groundout by [Jose Rodriguez](#).

After holding the Mallers scoreless over the ensuing two frames, the Nationals offense would respond, scoring four of their five runs in the top of the fourth.

Freshman right fielder, [Dan Carter](#) (Bloomfield, N.J./William Paterson University) reached via error to lead off the inning. After stealing second and advancing to third on a single by classmate, designated hitter, [Sam Browning](#) (Chatham, N.J./Skidmore College), Carter would score on a single by sophomore center fielder, [Nick Minter](#) (Millburn, N.J./Brookdale Community College).

With one out, a fielder's choice allowed freshman catcher, [Kevin Rodriguez](#) (West Orange, N.J./Bloomfield College) to reach base, loading the bases for classmate, first baseman, [Eric Zimmerman, Jr.](#) (Totowa, N.J./College of Mount Saint Vincent). An error by the Mallers first baseman allowed Zimmerman to reach base, further extending the inning and granting the Nationals their second run of the inning.

With the bases loaded and junior left fielder, [Denzel Faniel](#) (Newark, N.J./Bloomfield College) at the plate, Mallers sophomore starting pitcher, [Zach Amisano](#) (Medford, N.J./Shippensburg University) would balk, scoring Rodriguez. On the following pitch, Faniel would smack a line drive into left field for a double, scoring Zimmerman to give the Nationals a 4-1 advantage.

The Nationals would cap their scoring in the eighth inning, after freshman second baseman, [Jason Rivera](#) (Clifton, N.J./NJCU) drew a bases loaded walk.

The Mallers would not go down without a fight in the ninth inning however, scratching across a run on a pair of singles and walks off Nationals closer, junior, [Mike Elia](#) (Kendall Park, N.J./Stevenson University).

On the mound for the Nationals, sophomore starting pitcher, [Andrew Scholz](#) (West Orange, N.J./Arcadia University) worked the first four frames, surrendering a single earned run on three

hits with five strikeouts. Junior, [Brian Pascale](#) (Basking Ridge, N.J./Drew University) pitched a 1-2-3 fifth inning, earning the win. Freshman southpaw, [Kevin Kristner](#) (Verona, N.J./TCNJ) fanned a pair in a scoreless inning before giving way to Elia who allowed one earned run on two hits and two walks while punching out six over the final three innings en route to earning the save.

Amisano took the loss for the Mallers on a case of tough luck after being charged with zero earned runs over his four innings of work. The right hander's strikeout total matched his number of hits and total runs allowed at four.

The Nationals will take on the CP Royals in their first double header action of the season on Saturday, June 2 at Wardlaw-Hartridge School with the first game starting at 11 a.m.