

NJ Nationals Offense Leads Way in 16-1 Win Over DiMaggio Bombers

[Jeff Lombardi Jr.](#)

LINDEN, N.J.- The potent New Jersey Nationals (4-2) exploded for a season high 16 runs on 13 hits in a commanding 16-1 win over former division foe, the DiMaggio Bombers (0-1), Wednesday night.

The Nationals opened the scoring in the top of the second inning as freshman catcher, [Kevin Rodriguez](#) (West Orange, N.J./Bloomfield College) singled home classmates, second baseman, [Jason Rivera](#) (Clifton, N.J./NJCU) and third baseman, [Dan McLaughlin](#) (Clifton, N.J./NJCU) for a 2-0 lead.

In the ensuing Nationals at bat, freshman first baseman, [Eric Zimmerman, Jr.](#) (Totowa, N.J./The College of Mount Saint Vincent) singled home freshman right fielder, [Dan Carter](#) (Bloomfield, N.J./William Paterson University) to add to the lead.

In the fourth inning the Nationals pushed across six runs to take a dominating 9-1 advantage.

After a Rodriguez walk and a single by freshman shortstop, [Francis Prior](#) (North Caldwell, N.J./NYU) Carter singled home Rodriguez to secure the Nationals first double digit performance of the season. With two outs, pinch hitter, sophomore [Dan Abate](#) (Wayne, N.J./William Paterson) tripled home a pair. The following batter, sophomore [Nick Minter](#) (Millburn, N.J./Brookdale Community College) singled home Abate and capped the scoring for the inning after stealing third base and scoring on a throwing error by the Bombers catcher.

After being held scoreless over the next three frames, the Nationals sent 12 batters to the plate in the eighth inning in which they would score eight runs.

Leading off the inning, Rodriguez manufactured a run on his own by taking a free pass, advancing to second on a wild pitch before stealing third and scoring on another throwing error by the Bombers catcher. With two outs, pinch hitter, junior [Jeff Lombardi Jr.](#) (Kendall Park, N.J./William Paterson University) reached base on a fielder's choice and scored on a single by Abate, who came around to score on a wild pitch. After the next four batters were issued free passes; all of which came around to score, Rodriguez reached on an error allowing freshman first baseman, [Eric Vaz](#) (Edison, N.J./Johns Hopkins University) to single home two.

Overshadowed by the explosive offensive display was the relief outing by Nationals junior right-hander, [Mike Elia](#) (Kendall Park, N.J./Stevenson University). Elia came on

in the fourth inning, following brief stints by freshman starter, [Kevin Kistner](#) (Verona, N.J./TCNJ) and the game's winning pitcher, junior [Brian Pascale](#) (Basking Ridge, N.J./Drew University), and proceeded to strikeout 11 of the 18 batters he faced over 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ scoreless innings.

The game was called after eight innings due to darkness.

The Nationals will take on the Northern Valley Patriots in a doubleheader Saturday, June 10 at Wardlaw-Hartridge School with the first game starting at 11 a.m.