



GATEWAY GRIZZLIES

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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GRIZZLIES TAKE WIRE-TO-WIRE OPENER FROM OTTERS

Gateway veterans hit milestones in Friday night contest against Evansville

SAUGET, ILL. – The Gateway Grizzlies got a solid, all-around team effort on both sides of the baseball on Friday night at Arsenal BG Ballpark, riding early offense and outstanding pitching to an 8-3 victory over the Evansville Otters to kick off their final series of the regular season.

Gateway took command of the game early. **Lukas Veinbergs** (7-5) struck out two in the first inning to retire the side in order, and in the bottom of the frame, **Victor Castillo** was hit by a pitch and stole second base before **D.J. Stewart** smashed an RBI double to right-center field to get the Grizzlies on the board and make it 1-0.

In the bottom of the third inning with two outs, Gateway would expand their lead, as **Jose Alvarez** stayed hot with an RBI single for a 2-0 lead, and three pitches later, **Abdiel Diaz** cranked a three-run home run down the right field line off Parker Brahms (2-9), giving the Grizzlies a 5-0 lead.

Evansville would get a run back in the top of the fourth on a two-out RBI single by Cohen Wilbanks, but that was the only run Veinbergs would allow in six outstanding innings, finishing with no walks and nine strikeouts to not only tie his season-high, but also surpass 100 strikeouts on the season for the first time in his four-year Gateway career.

In the meantime, the Grizzlies kept up the offense in the bottom of the fifth, as Diaz crushed a double to center field with Alvarez on first base before an error by the Otters allowed the latter to score to make it 6-1. **Edwin Mateo** then scored Diaz with an RBI single two batters later to knock Brahms out of the game and increase the lead to 7-1.

Evansville would score two more runs in the contest on a home run by Keenan Taylor off **Bennett Stice**, but the right-hander minimized the damage in throwing the final three innings of the contest to pick up his first professional save. The Grizzlies' final run came in the bottom of the eighth on a sacrifice fly by Stewart, which gave him his 80th RBI of the season, making the native St. Louisan the fourth Gateway player in club history to amass 80 or more in a single campaign (Charlie Lisk, Mike Breyman, Peter Zimmermann).

The Grizzlies will look to continue to roll towards the postseason in the middle game of the series against the Otters on Saturday, August 30. First pitch at Arsenal BG Ballpark is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. CT.

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The Gateway Grizzlies are a professional baseball team, located a mere 10 minutes from downtown St. Louis in Sauget, Illinois. The Grizzlies offer baseball fans affordable, family fun at Arsenal BG Ballpark with a great view of the St. Louis skyline. They have also won two Frontier League Organization of the Year Awards, four West Division titles, and the 2003 Frontier League Championship. For tickets or general information, please visit gatewaygrizzlies.com or call (618) 337-3000.

The Frontier League debuted in 1993, and is the largest of the Major League Baseball Partner Leagues, featuring teams stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, and from the Ohio River to the St. Lawrence Seaway. More information and the complete 2025 schedule can be found at frontierleague.com.