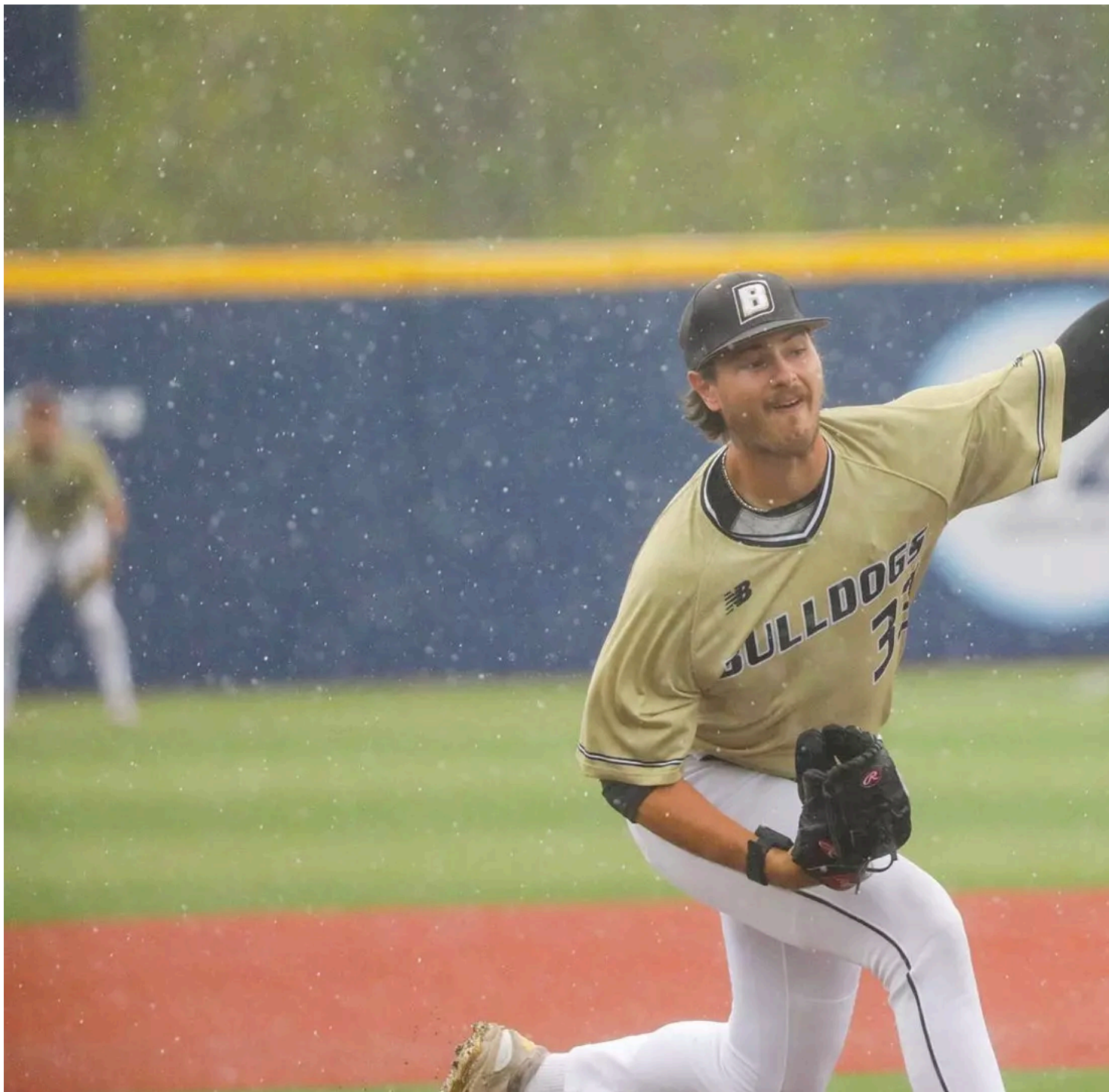


# Bryant University



Vanesko pitches Bryant into America East Championship Round as Bulldogs down UAlbany, 8-2  
Baseball

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ORONO, Maine – [Jackson Vanesko](#) delivered six innings of two-run ball and a six-run first inning was the difference as the top-seeded Bryant baseball team advanced to the championship round with an 8-2 victory over fifth-seeded UAlbany in game seven of the 2025 Northeast Delta Dental America East Baseball Championship on Saturday afternoon at Mahaney Diamond.

The Bulldogs improve to 35-18-1 overall with the victory and advance to Sunday's championship round against No. 3 seed Binghamton. Bryant will have to defeat the Bearcats twice, 3-0 in the tournament, to win the title. UAlbany, who defeated the Bulldogs 11-6 on Thursday, is eliminated with the loss.

Making his first start since April 1 at Brown, Vanesko limited the Great Danes to a pair of solo home runs over a career-high 6.0 innings to lead the Bulldogs to the championship round of the conference tournament for the fourth time in the last five years and the ninth time at the DI level.

[Brandyn Durand](#) and [Charlie Saul](#) each homered in Bryant's six-run first to set the tone. Saul finished 3-for-4 on the afternoon.

## Game Information

No. 1 Bryant 8, No. 5 UAlbany 2

**Records:** Bryant 35-18-1 | UAlbany 22-32

**Location:** Mahaney Diamond (Orono, Maine)  
**W|L|S:** Vanesko (6-3) | Kneller (2-4) | Scudder (2)

### Key Moments

- Durand blasted a three-run home run to highlight a six-run first inning for the Bulldogs.

### How it Happened

- Vanesko set the tone in the first inning, retiring the Great Danes on just seven pitches.
- Bryant followed their veteran lefties lead with a six-run first. D'Amico extended the inning with a two-out walk and Greger followed with an RBI single to right on a 2-2 pitch to make it 1-0. Durand followed with a Ruthian blast that landed on the football field in left to make it 4-0. After a walk to [Matt D'Amato](#), Saul hammered a 3-1 pitch over the wall in left.
- The Black and Gold extended the lead to 7-0 as Papetti advanced the runners with a sac bunt and Zyons drove a sac fly to center.
- UAlbany's bats woke up in the fifth as Anthony Scarabino and Cooper Loyal hit back-to-back home runs to open the inning. A walk and a single put two on with no outs but Vanesko buckled down. He induced a ground ball to first for the first out and then a shallow fly ball to right for the second out. Saul lined up the grab in right and fired a strike to the plate to get the runner tagging for an inning-ending 9-2 double play.
- Small ball produced Bryant's eighth run of the game as Papetti reached on an error, went to third on a Zyons bunt and scored on a Noriega sac fly.

### Inside the Box Score

- Vanesko allowed just two runs on five hits over 6.0 innings. He walked three and struck out three.
- Scudder pitched the final 3.0 innings to earn the save. He retired nine of the 10 batters he faced.
- Durand went 1-for-4 with a three-run home run.
- Saul finished 3-for-4 with a home run and a pair of singles.
- D'Amato went 1-for-2 with two walks and two runs scored.
- Greger added an RBI single.

### Game Notes

- Bryant improves to 14-3 all-time vs UAlbany.
- Bryant is now 24-4 since the start of April.
- The Black and Gold advanced to the championship round of the conference tournament for the fourth time in the last five seasons and for the ninth time at the Division I level. Bryant has reached the championship round in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025.
- With four total home runs in the game, there has been 25 home runs hit so far in the America East Tournament. There were 23 home runs hit at Mahaney Diamond in 12 America East Regular Season games.
- Wyers extended his on-base streak to 35 games with a walk and a double.
- D'Amato has reached safely in 30-straight games after walking in the first.
- Zyons saw his on-base streak snapped at 28 games but did provide a sac bunt and a sac fly.
- Durand's home run was his 11<sup>th</sup> of the year, matching his output from last season. His 22 home runs are tied with [Jackson Phinney](#) and James Ciliento for the 6<sup>th</sup>-most in DI program history.
- Saul's home run was his sixth of the year and third in the month of May.
- Vanesko made his first start since April 1 and delivered the longest outing of his career in his 33<sup>rd</sup> outing as a Bulldog.
- Scudder picked up his second save of the season with his longest outing since May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Scudder has now thrown 6.0 scoreless innings over his last four postseason outings dating back to last season at Eastern Connecticut.

### Up Next

Bryant advances to the America East Championship round and will face No. 3 Binghamton on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. If the Bulldogs win game one, the "if necessary" game will begin roughly 45 minutes following the completion of the first.