Freshman pitcher picks up first collegiate victory

It only took Ryan Rue two starts to record the first win of his college career, tossing six innings against Saint Peter’s University last weekend in Kissimmee, FL, a game Hofstra won 14-9.

In three starts this season, the first-year pitcher has allowed just three earned runs in 17 ⅔ innings pitched. Despite the early season success, Rue says he still has a lot of work to do as he continues to develop his game.

“I put in a lot of hard work to get to where I’m at and still have a lot to go to get to where I want to be,” said Rue. “I have proved that my work has paid off and I hope it continues to pay off as the season goes on and my career goes on. It was exciting getting on the mound down in Florida, I felt good and to get our team the second win of the season was just amazing for me.”

In his start against Saint Peter’s, Rue allowed just two earned runs while striking out five in his six innings of work. The freshman credits a combination of two pitches for the success he had on the mound against the Peacocks.

“Against Saint Peter’s, I really just had a fastball-changeup combination, which I think is one of the hardest things to hit,” said Rue. “I have a lot of confidence in my fastball, I’ve always had a lot of confidence in it. Usually my curveball isn’t a pitch I have to worry about but right now the feel is a little off for me, but I’m starting to get back to what it is. Once I’m able to get back to my curveball I’m going to have more confidence in myself than I already do.”

A three-sport athlete in high school, the Fair Lawn, NJ native is still adjusting to the college level of play after posting a 3-4 record with a 1.21 earned-run average and 76 strikeouts his senior year.

“One big thing I’ve had to adjust to coming into college is the running game. Even though I’m a lefty, I had a lot of work to do on my pickoff move and people told me when I do my pickoff it’s more obvious than when I throw home,” said Rue, who allowed zero stolen bases in his first two starts. “I’ve been working on making my pickoff and my throw home more identical. I’ve [also] been working - when I have a runner on first base - making my leg kick a little faster so I can get my time to the plate a little faster.”

After dropping to 2-9 on the season as a team following losses to Iona College and Fordham University, Hofstra will look to get back in the win column this weekend with three games against Liberty University.