

## Northern League Names 2008 Rookie Player and Rookie Pitcher of the Year Mike Rohde and Billy Weitzman Honored as top Rookies of N.L. Season

The Northern League announced that Gary SouthShore RailCats first baseman Mike Rohde (pronounced ROE-dee) was named Northern League Rookie Player of the Year, and that Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks pitcher Billy Weitzman was selected as the Rookie Pitcher of the Year as voted on by the league's managers, pitching coaches, general managers, radio announcers, and local media (2).

Rohde, who batted .318 for the Schaumburg Flyers in 2007, was still classified as a rookie in 2008 per Northern League rules. He was acquired by the RailCats via the Sioux Falls Canaries on January 18<sup>th</sup> as



the player to be named later from a prior deal. He finished the '08 season 10<sup>th</sup> in the league in batting (.319) and led all first baseman in fielding percentage (.995). He committed only three errors in 65 games at first base and also played 18 games at third base and four at second base. With 573 at-bats over two seasons in the Northern League, he has a .319 career batting average.

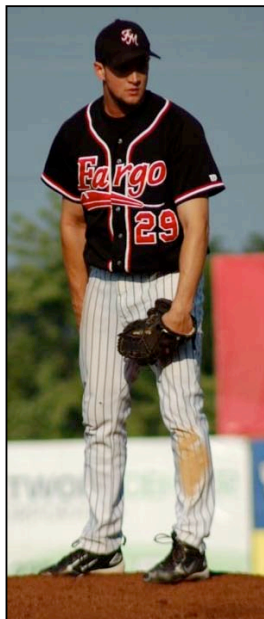
The 6-3, 205-pounder, starred at the University of Illinois where he batted over .300 three years in a row and received Second Team Big Ten Honors as a sophomore.

Northern League Rookies of the Year		
Year	Player	Team
2008	Mike Rohde	Gary SouthShore RailCats
2007	Mike Just	Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks
2006	Manabu Kuramochi	Calgary Vipers
2005	Brent Krause	Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks
2004	Casey Baker	Sioux City Explorers
2003	Brian Sprout	Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks
	Kris Cox	Winnipeg Goldeyes
2002	Jake Burnham	Sioux Falls Canaries
2001	Kevin Sullivan	Lincoln Saltdogs
2000	Jim Rushford	Duluth-Superior Dukes

### Mike Rohde – Gary SouthShore RailCats

AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	SLG	OBP
.319	91	348	59	111	25	5	1	55	37	70	13	4	.428	.382

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Weitzman, who received Pitcher of the Month honors for August, finished the season with an 8-2 record and a 3.02 ERA for the RedHawks. He was 5-0 with a 1.80 ERA in August, winning six of his last eight starts. Overall, Fargo-Moorhead was 10-2 in games that Weitzman started.

The right-hander, who completed his first season in the Northern League, did not join Fargo-Moorhead until June 24<sup>th</sup> after he started the 2008 season bouncing around from other independent leagues and teams. After being selected by the Sioux Falls Canaries (American Association) at an open tryout camp in March, he was traded to the Evansville Otters (Frontier League). Following his release, he spent a brief stint with the Texarkana Gunslingers (Continental Baseball League) before signing with the RedHawks. He was moved into the RedHawks starting rotation full time on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Northern League Rookie Pitchers of the Year		
Year	Player	Team
2008	Billy Weitzman	Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks
2007	Brandon Kintzler	Winnipeg Goldeyes
2006	Brandon Goltz	Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks
2005	Quintin Oldenburg	Gary - Calgary
2004	Mike Peschel	Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks
2003	Chris Begg	St. Paul Saints
2002	Dusty Keppen	Schaumburg Flyers
2001	Billy Coleman	Schaumburg Flyers
2000	Jason Pearson	Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks

### Billy Weitzman - Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks

W-L	S	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OPP.	AVG
8-2	0	3.03	14	12	68.1	60	31	23	25	44		.234

