

Standings Tighten Up as Season Takes Shape

Nearly one-third of the way into the 96-game season, the standings have taken a turn over the last two weeks. The Kansas City T-Bones, who won 12 of their first 16 games and had a 2.5 game lead in the standings, have since lost 10 of their last 13 games to move into a tie for third place. The two big climbers have been the defending champion Gary Southshore RailCats and the Winnipeg Goldeyes. The RailCats have gone 12-3 since starting the season 4-10, while the Goldeyes have won nine of 13 after beginning the season 5-10. Under the new playoff format, the top four records in the regular season qualify for the post-season.

Northern League Average Attendance Second only to Atlantic League

The Northern League is the only independent league that can currently boast that all its franchises average attendance is currently over 2,500. In addition, the Northern League currently has the second-highest league attendance, trailing only the Atlantic League.

Independent League Average Attendance			
	Total	Openings	Average
Atlantic League	733,842	184	3,988
Northern League	325,641	84	3,877
American Association	505,912	166	3,048
Frontier League	358,134	139	2,577
Can-Am League	198,181	86	2,304
United League	180,930	93	1,945
Golden League	81,491	64	1,273

As the attendance numbers grow with the summertime, the Northern League should become the only league to have all its franchises averaging over 3,000 fans. Gary, who is the only team

below, figures to eclipse the 3,000 barrier as they averaged 3,616 fans in 2007.

NL Alumnus Brad Ziegler Debuts in Majors with the Oakland A's

Brad Ziegler, who played for the Schaumburg Flyers in 2004, made his Major League debut on May 31st following his recall from Triple AAA Sacramento (Pacific Coast). The 28-year-old relief pitcher was signed by



the A's organization nearly four years to the day. Since his recall, he has pitched eight scoreless innings including notching his first major league victory on June 8th versus the Angels. He has only allowed five base runners (four hits and one walk) in his seven appearances. Ziegler's career took a turn after the 2006 season when the A's advised him to go instructional league and perfect a sidearm delivery.



"They told me I could separate myself from other right-handers in the organization and in baseball," said Ziegler. He was tied for fifth in the Pacific Coast League with eight saves when he was called up. He didn't allow a home run in 24 1/3 innings and he had a .174 opponents batting average.

Recent Northern League Alumni News & Highlights

Former Kansas City T-Bones pitcher Travis Schlichting was assigned to the Los Angeles Dodgers Class AA affiliate in Jacksonville (Southern League). He had previously been at the extended spring training for the Dodgers.



Former Joliet and Gary pitcher Tim Byrdak allowed his first runs of the year on June 4th. Since his recall from Triple AAA, he is 2-0 with a 1.31 ERA coming out of the bullpen for the Houston Astros. Byrdak was signed by the Astros after being released by the Detroit Tigers in spring training. Byrdak, 34, was 3-0 with 3.20 ERA in 45 innings for the Tigers last season when he struck out 9.8 batters per nine innings, ninth-best among all American League relievers last season.

* Former Joliet JackHammers left-hander Brian Mazone ranks ninth in the International League with a 2.93 ERA pitching for Lehigh Valley (Phillies).

* Playing for Portland (Padres), former Winnipeg Goldeyes third baseman Brian Myrow's .351 average ranks fourth in the Pacific Coast League.

Attendance Milestones

Northern League 21 Million fans: In its 16th season, the Northern League will eclipse the 21 million all-time attendance mark at some time during the 2008 season. The all-time league attendance currently sits at 20,712,570 fans.

Schaumburg Flyers 2 Million fans: The Flyers franchise, in its 10th season, is only 58,785 fans short of the 2 million mark. On their current pace, the Flyers should eclipse the landmark figure some time during their final homestand in July.



(all stats through June 15th)

Standings

	W	L	GB	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	15	12	----	.556
Gary	16	13	----	.552
Kansas City	15	14	1.0	.517
Joliet	15	14	1.0	.517
Winnipeg	14	14	1.5	.500
Schaumburg	11	19	5.5	.367

Home Record

	W	L	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	10	4	.714
Gary	8	6	.571
Joliet	6	6	.500
Winnipeg	7	7	.500
Schaumburg	7	11	.389
Kansas City	5	9	.357

Road Record

	W	L	Pct.
Kansas City	10	5	.667
Gary	8	7	.533
Joliet	9	8	.529
Winnipeg	7	7	.500
Fargo-Moorhead	5	8	.385
Schaumburg	4	8	.333

Attendance

	Total	Openings	Avg.
Winnipeg	76,251	13	5,865
Kansas City	71,272	14	5,091
Fargo-Moorhead	42,718	13	3,286
Joliet	39,207	12	3,267
Schaumburg	56,485	18	3,138
Gary	39,708	14	2,836
Total	325,641	84	3,877

Team Batting

	AVG	R	HR	SB
Joliet	.317	195	22	27
Gary	.300	174	18	31
Winnipeg	.294	172	27	39
Fargo-Moorhead	.273	146	17	29
Kansas City	.270	168	31	37
Schaumburg	.263	162	23	58

Team Pitching

	ERA	ER	BB	SO
Fargo-Moorhead	4.30	114	104	192
Gary	4.73	138	113	187
Joliet	4.80	138	101	208
Winnipeg	4.99	135	92	192
Kansas City	5.58	157	110	189
Schaumburg	6.47	188	121	151

Team Fielding

	%	G	E	TC
Fargo-Moorhead	.980	27	21	1,066
Gary	.971	29	33	1,153
Winnipeg	.968	28	33	1,045
Schaumburg	.966	30	40	1,166
Kansas City	.962	29	42	1,109
Joliet	.961	29	45	1,148

Power Rankings

	Rank	Pts	Previously
Fargo-Moorhead	1	25	2
Gary	2	23	4
Joliet	3	20.5	3
Winnipeg	4	18	6
Kansas City	5	11.5	1
Schaumburg	6	7	5

Note: Power Rankings compiled by cumulative league rank in win pct, avg, run differential, era, and fldg pct.



The RedHawks lead the league in pitching with a 4.30 team ERA and in fielding with a .980 fielding percentage. Under Manager Doug Simunic's helm, the RedHawks have finished first or second in the league in ERA eight of 12 seasons... On the defensive side, the RedHawks have finished in the top three in defense every year during his 12-year rein. Fargo-Moorhead has only once finished the season with a team fielding percentage under .970 (.967 in 1999)... The RedHawks current .980 fielding percentage is on pace to contend with the Northern League all-time record of .981 which was established by Joliet in 2004... F-M is 12-0 when they have a lead after seven innings... The RedHawks are last in the league with 146 runs scored... They are batting only .191 with runners in scoring position and two outs... Right-hander Garry Bakker has not allowed a run since May 25th, a span of 15.1 innings.

After a slow start in May, the Defending Champions got hot in June winning 10 of their last 13 games... Since May 29th, the RailCats have had four separate three-game winning streaks... After batting .268 in May, the RailCats are hitting 70 points higher in June (.338)... As a team, Gary is second in the league in batting (.300), pitching (4.73), and defense (.971)... Third baseman Tanner Townsend has 18 RBI in only 14 home games. He has driven in 28% of their runs (18 of 64 RBI) at home... Second baseman Eric McNamee currently has an active 24-game consecutive on-base streak, the second highest in the league in '08... The RailCats have 14 triples and 18 home runs this year. In 2007, the R-Cats nearly hit more triples than home runs over the entire season (32 triples/37 home runs).



Joliet leads the league with a .317 team batting average... The JackHammers have scored the most runs in the league (195), over 20 more than the next closest offense (Gary -174)... Joliet, who is averaging 6.7 runs scored a game, is currently on pace to eclipse the record of 618 runs scored in a season by Calgary in '07... The JackHammers boast the league's top two hitters in Doc Brooks (.404) and Juan Diaz (.376)... Brooks currently has an active 20-game hitting streak... On the road, the JackHammers have three players each with 14-game hitting streaks (Brooks, Diaz, and Nicholas Prosisse)... Diaz currently has the league's longest active consecutive on-base streak (26-games).



After 29 games, it has been a tale of two seasons for the T-Bones. Kansas City jumped out to a 12-4 record led by a sparkling 2.84 team ERA, but has amassed a 9.25 ERA and a 3-10 record in the 13 games since... They have been outscored 128-60 over the last 13 after previously pounding its opponents 108-59... All season the T-Bones have been a team that if it gets a lead, they win. K.C. is 12-2 when they score first and 10-1 when they have a lead after five innings... They are a perfect 8-0 when leading after six innings... Brad Correll leads the league in home runs (9), RBI (37), slugging percentage (.673), extra-base hits (19), and total bases (76)... The T-Bones have two nine-game road trips remaining on their schedule (June 24th – July 3rd) and (August 5th – 14th).



Through its first 30 games, the Flyers have had a league-high 18 home games... Entering play on June 17th, Schaumburg embarks on a season-high nine-game road trip (at Kansas City, at Gary, at Joliet)... The Flyers lead the league with 58 stolen bases (in 73 attempts) and have the best stolen base success rate at 78%... Rontrez Johnson leads the league with 18 stolen bases. The former major leaguer is also tied for the team lead with five home runs... Johnson and Peanut Williams each have active consecutive on-base streaks. Williams has reached base safely in 18 straight home games and Johnson 15 games... The Flyers have not won more than two games in a row all season, yet has only lost more than two games in a row twice.



After a 5-10 start of the season, the Goldeyes have rattled off wins in nine of their next 13 games... After 28 games, the Fish are 7-7 (.500) at home and 7-7 (.500) on the road... Brent Metheny has an active 16-game hitting streak. Over that span, he is batting .484 with a .548 on-base percentage... Relief pitcher Brian Beuning currently sits second in the league in with a 1.95 ERA. He previously had an 11.2 scoreless innings streak (May 21st – 31st)... Fehlandt Lentini, who has led the Northern League in stolen bases the previous two seasons, is a perfect 11-0 in stolen base attempts in '08... Brandon Kintzler, the 2007 Northern League Rookie Pitcher of the Year, is off to a 4-1 start in '08.



League Leaders



AVG
Doc
BROOKS
.404

2	Juan Diaz	JOL	.376
3	Brent Metheny	WIN	.367
4	Vince Harrison	SCH	.358
5	Eric McNamee	GAR	.353

HR
Brad
CORRELL
9



2t	Rob Watson	KC	6
2t	Kevin West	WIN	6
2t	Alan Rick	F-M	6
5t	several players tied		5

RBI
Brad
CORRELL
37



2	Juan Diaz	JOL	28
3	Tanner Townsend	GAR	26
4	Vince Harrison	SCH	25
5	Peanut Williams	SCH	24

WINS
Aaron
TROLIA
5



2t	Brandon Kintzler	WIN	4
2t	Gerald Plexico	GAR	4
4t	several players tied		3

ERA
Tony
COGAN
1.11



2	Brian Beuning	WIN	1.95
3	Garry Bakker	F-M	2.13
4	David Moraga	JOL	3.34
5	Aaron Trolia	JOL	3.48

STRIKEOUTS
Aaron
TROLIA
37



2	Brett Lawson	F-M	35
3	Kenny Durost	KC	34
4	Brian Forystek	JOL	31
5	Bear Bay	WIN	30