

**Goldeyes and RedHawks atop Standings as we**

Just past the halfway mark of the 96-game Northern League season, the Winnipeg Goldeyes and Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks sit tied atop the standings with identical 30-23 records. The Kansas City T-Bones, Gary Southshore RailCats, and Joliet Jackhammers are all only three back in the loss column as all five teams are vying for only four post-season spots. Under the new playoff format, the top four records in the regular season qualify for the post-season.

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**Northern League Leads All Independent Leagues in Attendance**

The Northern League has moved past the Atlantic League as the top drawing independent league in baseball. Midway through its season, the senior circuit of the indy leagues is averaging over 4,300 fans per opening, nearly 250 more fans per game than the next closest league. In addition, it is the only independent league that can currently boast that all its franchises average attendance is currently over 3,000. Last season the Northern League averaged 3,892 fans per game over 230 openings.

Independent League Average Attendance			
	Total	Openings	Average
Northern League	662,413	154	4,301
Atlantic League	1,183,267	292	4,052
American Association	946,250	295	3,208
Frontier League	790,082	299	2,642
Can-Am League	433,081	189	2,291
United League	349,122	170	2,054
Golden League	214,001	158	1,354

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, the Northern League eclipsed the 21 million all-time attendance mark. The league has now welcomed 21,087,957 all-time fans to date.

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**NL Alumnus Brad Ziegler Approaches 63-Year-Old American League Record**

Brad Ziegler, who played for the Schaumburg Flyers in 2004, made his Major League debut on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He has a career opening scoreless streak of 20.2 innings pitched. It is already an Oakland Athletics record for the longest scoreless streak at the start of a career and it is the longest by a Major Leaguer since Victor Cruz had a 21.1 inning streak for Toronto in 1978. The American League record is 22 innings set by Boston's Dave Ferriss in 1945 (source: Oakland A's media department).



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**Recent Northern League Alumni News & Highlights**

Former Northern League players George Sherrill and J.D. Drew played prominent roles for the American League in its victory in the 2008 Major League All-Star Game played at Yankee Stadium on July 15<sup>th</sup>.



Sherrill, who played in the Northern League for the Sioux Falls Canaries (2001) and Winnipeg Goldeyes (2002-03), pitched 2.1 scoreless innings of relief. With the score tied at three, Sherrill entered the game in the top of the 12th inning with the bases loaded and two outs. He struck out the Padres' Adrian Gonzalez to end the inning. The Orioles left-handed closer went on to post scoreless innings in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, allowing only one hit while striking out three. Sherrill estimated that he proudly answered questions about his independent days about 50 times, but he recognized that his story is a heartwarming one.

Drew, who played in the Northern League for the St. Paul Saints (1997 -98), took home the Major League Baseball All-Star Game M.V.P. honors after going 2-for-4 with a two-run home and a stolen base. Now playing right field for the Boston Red Sox, he played parts of two seasons for the Saints after being the #2 overall selection in the 1997 draft. After not being able to come to an agreement on a contract with the Phillies, he re-entered the draft in 1998 and eventually signed with the St. Louis Cardinals. He batted .359 (102-for-284) with 27 career home runs in the Northern League.



- \* Former Joliet Jackhammers left-hander Brian Mazone was named to the International League's All-Star team. He is with a 2.93 ERA pitching for Lehigh Valley (Phillies).
- \* Former Winnipeg Goldeyes third baseman Brian Myrow was selected to play in the Pacific Coast League All-Star Game, but had already been recalled by the San Diego Padres.
- \* Former RailCats pitcher and 2007 Northern League Pitcher of the Year, Willie Glen, was named to the Southern League All-Star Game. He pitched a scoreless inning of relief for the North All-Stars.



(all stats through July 15<sup>th</sup>)

**Standings**

	W	L	GB	Pct.
Winnipeg	30	23	----	.566
Fargo-Moorhead	30	23	----	.566
Kansas City	27	26	3.0	.509
Gary	27	26	3.0	.509
Joliet	26	26	3.5	.500
Schaumburg	19	35	11.5	.352

**Home Record**

	W	L	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	16	10	.615
Gary	14	13	.519
Winnipeg	14	13	.519
Joliet	12	14	.462
Kansas City	11	14	.440
Schaumburg	8	20	.286

**Road Record**

	W	L	Pct.
Winnipeg	16	10	.615
Kansas City	16	12	.571
Joliet	14	12	.538
Fargo-Moorhead	14	13	.519
Gary	13	13	.500
Schaumburg	11	15	.423

**Attendance**

	Total	Openings	Avg.
Winnipeg	157,012	25	6,280
Kansas City	145,349	25	5,814
Joliet	93,244	26	3,586
Fargo-Moorhead	85,153	24	3,548
Schaumburg	99,329	28	3,547
Gary	82,326	26	3,166
<b>Total</b>	<b>662,413</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>4,301</b>

**Team Batting**

	AVG	R	HR	SB
Joliet	.304	341	41	52
Winnipeg	.298	318	58	76
Fargo-Moorhead	.297	313	48	81
Kansas City	.297	334	60	72
Gary	.293	307	33	70
Schaumburg	.274	280	35	87

**Team Pitching**

	ERA	ER	BB	SO
Fargo-Moorhead	4.38	224	224	338
Winnipeg	4.59	236	169	336
Gary	4.73	247	189	325
Joliet	5.44	281	189	389
Kansas City	5.84	300	234	327
Schaumburg	6.53	343	245	290

**Team Fielding**

	%	G	E	TC
Fargo-Moorhead	.977	53	47	2,054
Gary	.975	53	52	2,063
Winnipeg	.968	53	63	1,985
Schaumburg	.965	54	74	2,107
Kansas City	.964	53	73	2,040
Joliet	.961	52	80	2,043

**Power Rankings**

	Rank	Pts	Prev.
Fargo-Moorhead	1	27.5	2 (23)
Winnipeg	2	24.5	3 (19)
Gary	3	18.5	1 (26)
Joliet	4	15	4 (16.5)
Kansas City	5	12.5	5 (12.5)
Schaumburg	6	7	6 (8)

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



**Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks: 30-23 (.566), 9-1 last 10 games, 13-7 last 20**

The RedHawks do not have a player that ranks in the Batting Top 10, but as a team they are third in the league with a .297 team batting average... The RedHawks continue to lead the league with a 4.38 team ERA. They are led by Garry Bakker (2.63), Broc Coffman (2.84), and Scott Koerber (2.91) who rank third, fourth, and fifth in the league respectively... The F-M bullpen continues to be rock solid for the RedHawks as the team is 22-2 when they have a lead after five innings and are a perfect 24-0 with a lead going into the ninth inning... Ruben Salazar has the longest active consecutive game hitting streak at 13. He is batting .491 (28-for-57) during that span... Through the first 12 games in July, F-M has hit 20 home runs. In the previous 41 games, they had only hit 28 home runs as a team.

**Gary Southshore RailCats: 27-26 (.509), 3-7 last 10 games, 8-12 last 20**

The Defending Champions have had a season of streaks thus far. After starting the season losing nine of 12 games, they rattled off 17 wins over their next 22 games, only to be followed by losing 12 of their next 19... The RailCats are the stingiest team to run against as they lead the league by throwing out 41% of would be base-stealers. Anthony Esquer leads the way throwing out 9-of-20 (47%) baserunners... G-S is one of only two teams with a better home record (14-13), than road record (13-13). Fargo-Moorhead is the only other team... Shortstop Jay Pecci was named the 2008 Northern League All-Star MVP. He hit the game-deciding two-run home run in the seventh inning. Jeremy Plexico was the game-winning pitcher for the Chicagoland All-Stars.



**Joliet Jackhammers: 26-26 (.500), 5-5 last 10 games, 10-10 last 20**

Joliet leads the league with a .304 team batting average... The JackHammers have scored the most runs in the league (341) and are averaging 6.6 runs scored a game, which is currently on pace to eclipse the record of 618 runs scored in a season by Calgary in '07... The 'Hammers are winless in extra-inning games (0-4)... Playing .500-ball, Joliet has not had a losing streak of more than three games (four times) this year. However, they have only had single winning streaks of five games (once) and three games (once)... Clutch Hitting: Joliet leads the league with a .317 team batting average with runners in scoring position. Shortstop Nick McIntyre is leading the way batting a league-high .456 (26-for-57) with runners in scoring position.



**Kansas City T-Bones: 27-26 (.509), 5-5 last 10 games, 10-10 last 20**

The T-Bones have been hovering around the .500-mark since June 10<sup>th</sup>. K.C. has only been more than two games above or below .500 for one day in that span... Kansas City is trying to finish a season with a record above .500 for the first time in franchise history... Amazingly, the T-Bones record on the road (16-12) is 3.5 games better than at home (11-14)... Kansas City leads the league with 81% stolen base efficiency (72 out of 89)... The T-Bones offense leads the league in home runs (60), but also leads the league with the fewest strikeouts (287)... The 1-2 punch of Brad Correll and Jim Fasano was broken up with the signing of Correll by the Kansas City Royals on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The two sluggers rank #1 & #2 in the league in both home runs and RBI.



**Schaumburg Flyers: 19-35 (.352), 3-7 last 10 games, 6-14 last 20**

A big reason for the Flyers sitting 16 games under .500 is its play versus Gary Southshore. Schaumburg is only 2-12 (.143) versus the RailCats. Gary has already won the season series as the two teams only meet nine more times in '08... The Flyers lead the league with 87 stolen bases after 54 games played. They led the league with 129 stolen bases in 2007 and are on pace to have 155 thefts this year... All-Star pitcher Brad Mumma leads the league with three complete games and two shutouts. His five wins lead the team as no other pitcher has more than two victories on the season... The Flyers team ERA of 6.53 is on pace to be the highest the league has seen in modern history. Edmonton finished with a 6.19 team ERA in 2007.



**Winnipeg Goldeyes: 30-23 (.566), 6-4 last 10 games, 13-7 last 20**

At 30-23, the Goldeyes are well on their way to finishing with a winning record for the fifteenth time in 16 seasons (in '05 the Fish finished 47-48)... The Fish have a league-best 16-10 (.615) road record... The Goldeyes average of 6,280 fans per game leads all independent leagues. They are currently the only team in independent baseball to average 6,000+ fans... After starting the season with a .270 average and only one stolen base in his first 15 games, All-Star outfielder Fehlandt Lentini has batted .380 (65-for-171) with 20 stolen bases over the next 38 games... All-Star third baseman Brent Metheny leads the league with a .391 batting average and has reached base safely in 39 consecutive games dating back to May 28<sup>th</sup>.



**League Leaders**



**AVG**  
Brent  
METHENY  
**.391**

2 Nick McIntyre	JOL	.366
3 Rob Watson	KC	.353
4 Fehlandt Lentini	WIN	.350
5 Vince Harrison	SCH	.346

**HR**  
Brad  
CORRELL  
**15**



2t Jim Fasano	KC	13
2t Kevin West	WIN	13
4t Alan Rick	F-M	11
4t Steve Mortimer	F-M	11



**RBI**  
Jim  
FASANO  
**53**

2 Brad Correll	KC	49
3 Brent Metheny	WIN	47
4 Rob Watson	KC	41
5t several players tied at		40

**WINS**  
David  
MORAGA  
**7**



2t Jeremy Plexico	GAR	6
2t Aaron Trolia	JOL	6
4t Broc Coffman	F-M	5
4t Brad Mumma	SCH	5



**ERA**  
Brian  
BEUNING  
**1.65**

2 Jeremy Plexico	GAR	2.50
3 Garry Bakker	F-M	2.63
4 Broc Coffman	F-M	2.81
5 Scott Koerber	F-M	2.91

**STRIKEOUTS**  
Aaron  
TROLIA  
**73**



2 Nate Sevier	JOL	62
3 Kenny Durost	KC	51
4t several players tied at		38