

Fargo-Moorhead Two Games Away From Post-Season Berth

As the regular season winds down, the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks are on the brink of clinching their sixth straight post-season appearance. With 15 games remaining in the regular season, any combination of RedHawks victories and/or Joliet losses equaling two will clinch a berth into the 2008 Northern League Playoffs. The Gary SouthShore RailCats and Winnipeg Goldeyes are also creeping close to a playoff berth as the RailCats magic number sits at six and the Goldeyes at eight. The Kansas City T-Bones and Joliet JackHammers seem to be battling for the final seed in the playoffs. The teams are separated by only two games and play each other three more times (August 26th-28th at Kansas City).

The top four regular season records will qualify for the post-season. The playoffs will pit the top four teams against each other in two rounds. The #1 team will face the #4 finisher and the #2 team will square-off against the #3 team. Each of the playoff rounds will consist of a best-of-five series.

Ziegler's Record Streak Ends, Establishes Major League Record

Former Schaumburg Flyers pitcher and now Oakland Athletics reliever, Brad Ziegler, had his consecutive scoreless innings streak to begin his major league career end at 39.1 innings pitched. The streak broke a 101-year-old record previously held by Philadelphia's George McCullen in 1907. In the process, Ziegler also tied the consecutive scoreless innings streak for an American League reliever of 39 innings, tied with Cleveland's Al Benton in 1949.



"It's almost been like a no-hitter type streak or something," A's manager Bob Geren said. "Unbelievable what he's done, but I'll get him right back out and try to start another one. He's been tremendous."

Ziegler began the 2008 season at Triple-A Sacramento and allowed one earned run in 24 1/3 innings before being called up to Oakland on May 30th. The right-hander has a 0.28 ERA (2 ER/64.1 IP) between the majors and minors in 2008. In addition, he hasn't given up a homer in 143 2/3 innings since switching to a sidearm delivery after the 2006 season.

Begg Leads Team Canada to Victory in Beijing

Four former Northern Leaguers are representing Team Canada at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing: Chris Begg (St. Paul/2003), RJ Swindle (Schaumburg 2005-06), Ryan Radmonovich (Edmonton 2007), and Stubby Clapp (Edmonton/2005-06). Behind six-plus shutout innings by Begg (pictured right) versus host China, Canada began the preliminaries 1-0. The former Northern Leaguer pitched 6.2 innings allowing only six hits while striking out nine and walking none. In the first four games, Clapp batted .250 (4 H/16 AB) and Swindle had not allowed an earned run over 2.2 innings pitched for Team Canada. Radmanovich has primarily been a defensive replacement late in games.





Alumni Notes: Alberto Castillo (Schaumburg 1999-2000), is 0-0 with a 2.87 ERA for the Baltimore Orioles. Prior to his last outing on Aug. 14th, he had only allowed two earned runs over his previous 14.2 innings pitched since his recall (1.23 ERA)... Scott Richmond (Edmonton 2005-07) was sent back to Triple-A Syracuse after going 0-2 with a 5.06 ERA in three starts for the Blue Jays. Toronto GM J.P. Ricciardi said Richmond will probably be back up when rosters expand. "We haven't made our minds up on September call-ups yet but he did a good job, a real good job," Ricciardi said. "He came out of nowhere and put himself on the map. Going forward, he's definitely in our plans - that's great"... The 2007 NL Pitcher of the Year Willie Glen (Gary 2005-07) is 9-3 with a 1.72 ERA for the Carolina Mudcats (Marlins – Class AA)... Kevin Mahar (Kansas City 2008) is batting .293 with two doubles, two triples, a home run and nine RBI for Clearwater (Phillies - Class A)... Brian Mazzone (Joliet 2002) is 9-10 with 3.65 ERA for Lehigh Valley (Phillies - Class AAA)... Brandon Villafuerte (Schaumburg 2007) is 5-3 with a 3.95 ERA for Albuquerque (Marlins – Class AAA). He has appeared in 55 of their 126 games played.

For all the current Northern League alumni updates, go to www.northernleague.com.



(all stats through August 15th)

Standings

	W	L	GB	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	50	31	----	.617
Gary	46	35	4.0	.568
Winnipeg	44	37	6.0	.543
Kansas City	38	43	12.0	.469
Joliet	36	45	14.0	.444
Schaumburg	29	52	21.0	.358

Home Record

	W	L	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	26	14	.650
Winnipeg	24	19	.558
Gary	22	18	.550
Kansas City	17	21	.447
Joliet	17	24	.415
Schaumburg	12	29	.293

Road Record

	W	L	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	24	17	.585
Gary	24	17	.585
Winnipeg	20	18	.526
Kansas City	21	22	.488
Joliet	19	21	.475
Schaumburg	17	23	.425

Attendance

	Total	Openings	Avg.
Winnipeg	248,206	39	6,364
Kansas City	226,382	38	5,957
Schaumburg	162,683	40	4,067
Fargo-Moorhead	143,499	38	3,776
Joliet	152,722	41	3,725
Gary	126,264	38	3,323
Total	874,736	196	4,463

Team Batting

	AVG	R	HR	SB
Gary	.301	502	59	101
Fargo-Moorhead	.298	491	82	108
Joliet	.297	504	67	81
Kansas City	.291	511	98	104
Winnipeg	.286	444	80	104
Schaumburg	.277	424	63	104

Team Pitching

	ERA	ER	BB	SO
Fargo-Moorhead	4.20	333	352	511
Winnipeg	4.64	364	273	506
Gary	4.65	370	289	487
Joliet	5.60	448	321	596
Kansas City	5.71	448	363	510
Schaumburg	6.73	530	363	444

Team Fielding

	%	G	E	TC
Gary	.976	81	76	3,156
Fargo-Moorhead	.975	81	80	3,176
Winnipeg	.970	81	91	3,025
Kansas City	.968	81	99	3,094
Schaumburg	.966	81	107	3,145
Joliet	.963	81	115	3,136

Power Rankings

	Rank	Pts	Prev.
Fargo-Moorhead	1	28	1 (29)
Gary	2	26	2 (22)
Winnipeg	3	19	5 (14)
Kansas City	4	14	3t (17)
Joliet	5	12	3t (17)
Schaumburg	6	6	6 (6)

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



Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks – The RedHawks have clinched a regular season record over .500, extending their league-record to 13 consecutive seasons. In those 13 seasons, the ‘Hawks have finished with 50 or more wins 12 times (47 wins in 1997)...The RedHawks pitching staff has only allowed 692 hits through the first 81 games (8.5 avg. hits per game). The next closest team is Gary with 781 allowed (9.6 hits/game)...F-M is an amazing 35-2 with a lead after five innings and a perfect 39-0 with a lead after eight innings...Fargo has a league-best home record of 26-24 (.650) in 2008. Over the last nine seasons, the RedHawks have had a record of 273-129 (.679) in games played at Newman Outdoor Field.



Gary Southshore RailCats – The RailCats continue to have a hot month followed by a cold month. G-S had a 6-10 (.375) record in May, an 18-7 (.720) June, and a 10-16 (.385) July. After 14 games in August, the RailCats are off to a 12-2 (.857) start...Dating back to July 29th, the ‘Cats have won 15 of 17 games behind great pitching and hitting. In that span, they have scored five or more runs 15 times and allowed five or less runs nine times...The duo of Jay Pecci and Tanner Townsend have been hot offensively, Pecci is batting .460 (23-for-50) and Townsend is hitting .400 (20-for-50) in the month of August. They have combined to score 30 runs and drive in 28 runs in only 14 games for Gary.



Joliet JackHammers – After averaging 6.7 runs per game thru July, the ‘Hammers offense has fallen on hard times averaging only 3.9 runs per game in August (3-12 record)...Joliet, who is currently in fifth place, will have a tough schedule to overcome to reach fourth place and the final post-season berth. Of their 15 remaining games, they have five each versus the RailCats (46-35, .568) and Goldeyes (44-37, .543), three versus the T-Bones (currently in fourth place), and two against the first place RedHawks (50-31, .617)... The JackHammers have played in a league-high 12 extra-inning contests in ‘08 (1-11, .083). They just picked up their first extra-inning victory August 14th versus Kansas City.



Kansas City T-Bones – The T-Bones continue to have a better road record (21-22, .488) than home record (17-21, .447)...Kansas City currently holds a two game advantage over the Joliet JackHammers for the fourth and final post-season berth. With 15 games remaining in the regular season, they must play the top teams in the league: RailCats (4 games), RedHawks (5 games), Goldeyes (3 games), and the fifth place JackHammers (3 games)... The T-Bones lead the league in runs scored with 511 (6.3 runs per game), and are currently on pace to score 605, just off pace of the league record of 619 set in 2007 by Calgary. The T-Bones established a franchise record 609 runs scored last season.



Schaumburg Flyers – The Flyers 29 wins after 81 games put them on pace to only win 34 games in ‘08. That would be the lowest output of wins for the franchise since 2002 when they won only 35 games in 88 games played... Schaumburg’s 6.73 team ERA is a full run higher than the next closest team (K.C. with a 5.71 ERA)... David Moraga, who was acquired from the JackHammers on August 4th, is already 1-0 with Schaumburg and leads the league in victories with nine. His nine victories on the season is almost double of the next closest on the team (Steve Shippey – 5)... Vince Harrison is the team leader in nearly all offensive categories: runs (49), hits (106), doubles (22), home runs (9), and RBI (52).



Winnipeg Goldeyes – After the Goldeyes went on a 3-14 string to end July and start August, they have won 11 of 13 games to move to only six games back of first place Fargo... Winnipeg’s 6,364 fans per game is the highest per game average in the independent leagues. The only other independent team averaging more than 6,000 fans is the St. Paul Saints (American Association), more than 200 behind at 6,141... Brian Beuning returned from the disabled list on August 8th and has appeared in seven games in eight days going 1-0 with a save and a 0.00 ERA (0 ER/11 IP). He lowered his league-leading ERA from 1.63 to 1.38... The duo of Fehlandt Lentini (29) and Demetrius Heath (27) have the most combined stolen bases for teammates in the league.

League Leaders



AVG
Brent
METHENY
.374

3	Tanner Townsend	GAR	.358
4	Rob Watson	KC	.348
2	Jermaine Allensworth	SCH	.333
5	Jay Pecci	GAR	.330

HR

Jim
FASANO
19



2	Kevin West	WIN	16
3t	Steve Mortimer	F-M	15
3t	Brad Correll	KC	15
5t	several players at		14

RBI

Jim
FASANO
75



2	Tanner Townsend	GAR	71
3t	Cory Harris	JOL	63
3t	Kevin West	WIN	63
5t	several players at		60

WINS

David
MORAGA
9



2t	several players at	8
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ERA

Brian
BEUNING
1.38



2	Scott Koerber	F-M	2.21
3	Jeremy Plexico	GAR	2.74
4	Broc Coffman	F-M	3.21
5	Garry Bakker	F-M	3.44

STRIKEOUTS

Aaron
TROLIA
121



2	Nate Sevier	JOL	85
3	Bear Bay	WIN	81
4	Kenny Durost	KC	77
5	Brad Mumma	JOL	69