

Four Teams Prepare for Northern League Playoffs

Behind their 62 wins, the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks posted the best record in the regular season clinching the #1 Seed in the playoffs and their sixth straight appearance in the playoffs. The RedHawks franchise has now made the post-season in 12 of 13 seasons. The defending champion Gary SouthShore RailCats notched the #2 Seed, while the Winnipeg Goldeyes and Kansas City T-Bones took the #3 and #4 Seeds respectively.

Under the new playoff format for 2008, the top four regular season records qualified for the post-season. It pits the top four teams against each other in two rounds. The #1 team will face the #4 finisher and the #2 team squares-off against the #3 team. Each of the playoff rounds will consist of a best-of-five series and the higher seed will have home field advantage in all rounds.



The playoffs are set to begin on Tuesday, September 2nd with the T-Bones hosting the RedHawks in Kansas City and RailCats playing host to the Goldeyes in Gary. Game Two is set for Wednesday night with both of the series changing venues for games three, four, and five (if necessary) over the

weekend. A potential game five in the RailCats-Goldeyes series would be played in Gary on September 7th. The Northern League Championship Series is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 9th with the lowest seed remaining hosting Games One and Two. Following a travel day, Game Three would begin on Friday, September 12th.

Northern League Leads Indy Leagues in Per Game Attendance

The Northern League led all independent leagues with a 4,631 per game average as none of its franchises averaged under 3,400 fans a game. The Winnipeg Goldeyes led all indy teams with a 6,464 average attendance. The St. Paul Saints (American Association) and the Long Island Ducks (Atlantic League) were the only other teams averaging over 6,000 fans a game. The Kansas City T-Bones ranked fourth amongst all teams at 5,850.



With only 279 openings, the Northern League welcomed more than 1.2 million fans through its gates in 2008. Only the Atlantic League (460 openings), American Association (455 openings), and Frontier League (547 openings) had a higher overall league attendance. Entering its 17th season in 2009, the Northern League will embark on surpassing 22 million all-time fans.

NL Post-Season All-Star to be Announced September 4th

The Northern League end of the year awards will begin being announced on Thursday, September 4th as the ballots have been returned to the league office. The All-Star Team will be the first of the awards to be announced by the league. All selections were voted on by the league's general managers, managers, pitching coaches, radio broadcasters, and each team's local media representatives.

Northern League Post-Season Awards Schedule	
September 4 th	– Post-Season All-Star Team
September 5 th	– Best Playing Surface of the Year
September 6 th	– Relief Pitcher of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year
September 7 th	– NL Rookies of the Year (Player and Pitcher)
September 8 th	– Manager of the Year and Executive of the Year
September 10 th	– NL Player and Pitcher of the Year
September 11 th	– NL Organization of the Year

Alumni Notes: Brad Ziegler (Schaumburg 2004) continues to impress the Oakland Athletics as he has replaced Huston Street as the A's primary closer. After making major league history beginning his career with 39.1 consecutive scoreless innings, he is 1-0 with six saves and a miniscule 0.57 ERA... Chris Coste (Fargo-Moorhead 1996-99) is beginning to see more playing time as the Philadelphia Phillies are in the chase for the National League pennant. He is batting .278 on the year and recently had a 4-for-4 game versus the rival New York Mets on August 26th where he hit a walk-off single in the 13th inning... George Sherrill (Winnipeg 2002-03) who has been on the disabled list for the Baltimore Orioles since August 16th is due to re-join the team any day after September 1st. For all the current Northern League alumni updates, go to www.northernleague.com.



(all stats through August 31st)

Standings

	W	L	GB	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	62	34	---	.646
Gary	56	40	6.0	.583
Winnipeg	51	45	11.0	.531
Kansas City	46	50	16.0	.479
Joliet	43	53	19.0	.448
Schaumburg	30	66	32.0	.313

Home Record

	W	L	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	33	15	.688
Gary	28	20	.583
Winnipeg	28	20	.583
Kansas City	23	25	.479
Joliet	20	28	.417
Schaumburg	13	35	.271

Road Record

	W	L	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	29	19	.604
Gary	28	20	.583
Joliet	23	25	.479
Kansas City	23	25	.479
Winnipeg	23	25	.479
Schaumburg	17	31	.354

Attendance

	Total	Openings	Avg.
Winnipeg	284,398	44	6,464
Kansas City	280,795	48	5,850
Schaumburg	202,013	47	4,298
Fargo-Moorhead	177,900	46	3,867
Joliet	184,638	48	3,847
Gary	159,586	46	3,469
Total	1,289,330	279	4,621

Team Batting

	AVG	R	HR	SB
Gary	.307	617	71	120
Fargo-Moorhead	.299	602	101	124
Joliet	.298	576	82	87
Kansas City	.295	632	121	110
Winnipeg	.281	506	84	129
Schaumburg	.275	488	73	116

Team Pitching

	ERA	ER	BB	SO
Fargo-Moorhead	4.37	412	413	608
Winnipeg	4.51	421	319	616
Gary	4.73	446	353	565
Joliet	5.61	531	404	694
Kansas City	5.76	537	430	598
Schaumburg	6.80	637	444	522

Team Fielding

	%	G	E	TC
Gary	.976	96	88	3,724
Fargo-Moorhead	.975	96	95	3,751
Winnipeg	.971	96	103	3,600
Kansas City	.969	96	113	3,668
Schaumburg	.968	96	121	3,732
Joliet	.966	96	127	3,706

Power Rankings

	Rank	Pts	Prev.
Fargo-Moorhead	1	28	1 (28)
Gary	2	26	2 (26)
Winnipeg	3	18	3 (19)
Kansas City	4	15	4 (14)
Joliet	5	12	5 (12)
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 the best all-time winning percentage in the Northern League (.629). Since coming into the league in 1996, they have averaged 56.5 wins per year, winning more than 60 games five times. F-M has never finished a season with a record under .500... Fargo had a league-best home record of 33-15 (.688) in 2008. Over the last nine seasons, the RedHawks have had a record of 280-130 (.683) in games played at Newman Outdoor Field... Ruben Salazar became the second RedHawks player in three years to win the NL Batting Title. Current teammate Joe Mathis won the title in 2006... The RedHawks finished the season with a perfect 50-0 record when they had a lead after eight innings.



Gary Southshore RailCats – The RailCats were up and down all season, having a hot month followed by a cold month. G-S had a 6-10 (.375) record in May, an 18-7 (.720) June, 10-16 (.385) July, and 22-7 (.759) August... The RailCats went on an offensive tear in the month of August. In 29 games, they scored 225 runs (8.3 runs per game) and batted .343 as a team... The RailCats broke the single-season record for hits in a season with 1,057 hits eclipsing the previous record of 1,043 established by the Lincoln Saltdogs in 2005... The 'Cats scored 617 runs, just two shy of the Northern League record of 619 scored by Calgary in '07. However, the 617 runs ranked second in the league in '08 behind Kansas City.



Joliet JackHammers – The JackHammers finished just three games off the pace to qualify for the post-season. The 'Hammers have not made the post-season since their inaugural season of 2002 and have never won a post-season game in franchise history... The JackHammers played in a league-high 12 extra-inning contests in '08, but won the fewest (1-11, .083)... Joliet posted a better record on the road (23-25, .479), than at home (20-28, .417). The 'Hammers team batting average was 23 points higher on the road (.309), than at home (.286)... Joliet finished with 43 wins in '08. Over its seven-year history, the JackHammers average 44 wins a season (high of 53 wins in '02 and low of 36 wins in '05).



Kansas City T-Bones – The T-Bones established a new league record for runs scored in a season with 632 (6.6 runs per game). The previous league record of 619 was set in 2007 by Calgary... The T-Bones qualified for the post-season for only the second time in franchise history. Kansas City reached the post-season in 2004 with a 48-48 record, but lost to the Schaumburg Flyers three games to two in the opening round of the playoffs... The T-Bones have never finished a season with a record over .500, but their worst season was only eight games under .500 (44-52 in 2007). In six seasons, K.C. has averaged 45 wins a season and has an all-time record of 271-296 (.478).



Schaumburg Flyers – The Flyers 30 wins is the lowest output of wins for the franchise since 2002 when they won only 35 games in 88 games played. The Flyers finished with a sub-.500 record for the seventh time in 10 years... The Flyers finished the season losing its last 14 games and 21 of its last 24 games... Schaumburg had a 5-23 record in August... Schaumburg's 6.80 team ERA was a full run higher than the next closest team (K.C. with a 5.76 ERA)... Calvin Pickering, who was signed on July 19th, led the Flyers team with 14 home runs despite only playing in 37 games. He hit a league-high 12 home runs in the month of August.



Winnipeg Goldeyes – The Goldeyes franchise has 768 victories, an average of 51 wins a season... The Goldeyes qualified for the playoffs for the 13th time in 15 seasons. However, they have not won a post-season series since 2003 when they lost to Fargo-Moorhead in the Finals... Despite having its lowest attendance figure since the 2000 season, Winnipeg's 6,464 fans per game is the highest per game average in the independent leagues in 2008... Brian Beuning became the second Goldeyes pitcher to win the ERA title in three years. Luis Villarreal won the title in 2006... Fehlandt Lentini led the Northern League in stolen bases for the third straight season. In three seasons with the Goldeyes, he now has 136 career stolen bases.

League Leaders



AVG
Ruben SALAZAR
.378

2	Tanner Townsend	GAR	.371
3	Brent Metheny	WIN	.357
4	Juan Diaz	JOL	.354
5	Rob Watson	KC	.344

HR

Jim FASANO
20



2	Steve Mortimer	F-M	19
3	Kevin West	WIN	18
4t	Brad Correll	KC	16
4t	Doc Brooks	JOL	16

RBI

Tanner TOWNSEND
84



1t	Jim Fasano	KC	84
3	Steve Mortimer	FM	76
4	Kevin West	WIN	74
5	Cory Harris	JOL	70

WINS

Broc COFFMAN
10



1t	Scott Koerber	F-M	10
1t	Jeremy Plexico	GAR	10
4t	several players tied at		9

ERA

Brian BEUNING
1.75



2	Tony Cogan	GAR	2.08
3	Jeremy Plexico	GAR	2.79
4	Scott Koerber	F-M	2.87
5	Broc Coffman	F-M	3.03

STRIKEOUTS

Aaron TROLIA
142



2	Bear Bay	WIN	102
3	Nate Sevier	JOL	100
4	Kenny Durost	KC	90
5	Broc Coffman	FM	82