

DeCaster and Walker Named Northern League Player and Pitcher of the Week

Third baseman Yurendell DeCaster of the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks was named Northern League Player of the Week, and Winnipeg Goldeyes pitcher Andrew Walker received the Northern League Pitcher of the Week honors for the period ending June 14th, 2009.

DeCaster, who currently rides an 11-game hitting streak, hit .478 (11-for-23) with eight runs scored, five doubles, two home runs, and 10 RBI in the week. He also was a perfect 3-for-3 on stolen base attempts in that span. On the year, he is among the league leaders in multiple categories. He leads the league in RBI (31), is tied for the lead in home runs (8), and ranks third in batting (.353). He is also only one stolen base off the league lead with eight.



A native of Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, the 13-year veteran made his major league debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates on May 21, 2006. More recently, he played for the Netherlands in the World Baseball Classic and drove in the winning run in the bottom of the 11th inning in his teams' second game against the Dominican Republic, securing the Netherlands a second-round berth in Pool 2 of the WBC.

The 6-1, 200-pounder, was signed as a non-drafted free agent by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 1996. After four seasons in the Rays farm system, he was selected by the Pirates in the Rule 5 minor league draft in 2000. Over his career, he also spent time in the Nationals and Tigers organizations prior to joining the RedHawks on April 6, 2009. After signing his first pro contract at the age of 16, the right-handed hitter does not turn 30 until September.

Yurendell DeCaster – Player Statistics (June 8th – 14th)

<u>AVG</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>SLG</u>	<u>OBP</u>
.478	6	23	8	11	5	0	2	10	4	2	3	0	.957	.556



Walker, who went 2-0 with a 0.73 ERA in the week, pitched a complete game shutout in game one of a doubleheader versus Joliet on June 14th. He only allowed one earned run in the week as he pushed his record to 4-0 on the season. The Goldeyes are a perfect 6-0 in games started by Walker this year.

Playing in his fifth season of professional baseball, Walker returns to the Goldeyes for the second straight year. He led the Fish in wins (9), starts (20) and innings pitched (121.1) in '08. His starts total tied for second-most in a single season in franchise history while his innings pitched ranked fifth in the league. In 2009, he currently leads the league in ERA (1.89) and is tied for the league lead in wins (4).

Walker was originally signed by the Texas Rangers as a non-drafted free agent following his junior season at Alabama University (Tuscaloosa, AL). After three years in the Rangers farm system, making it as high as Class AA in '06, he signed with the Goldeyes before the start of the '08 season. Walker was first drafted in the 60th round of the 2002 Amateur Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers, but did not sign.

Andrew Walker – Pitching Statistics (June 8th – 14th)

<u>W-L</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>OPP.</u>	<u>AVG</u>
2-0	0	0.73	2	2	1	12.1	14	2	1	1	6		.286

The Northern League Player and Pitcher of the Week are sponsored all season by PA-SportsTicker, the Official Statistic and Information Company for the Northern League.



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