

RedHawks End-of-the-Year Honors Continue Cotton Named Best Relief Pitcher and Mathis Named Top Defensive Player

The Northern League announced that Fargo-Moorhead's right-handed pitcher Nate Cotton was named Relief Pitcher of the Year, and the RedHawks outfielder Joe Mathis was selected as the top Defensive Player of the Year as voted on by the league's managers, radio announcers, and local media.



Cotton, who completed his first season with Fargo-Moorhead after playing the previous two seasons in Schaumburg, finished the season second in the league in saves (22). He was 3-3 with a 2.44 ERA appearing in 42 games for the RedHawks. The right-hander led the league in Rolands Relief Points (66 - 3 points for save, 2 points for win, and minus-2 for loss in relief) and had appeared in 22 consecutive games (July 14th – August 31st) without blowing a save when the season ended.

The 6-2, 195-pounder, played in the Cincinnati Reds and St. Louis Cardinals organizations prior to coming to the Northern League in 2005. Having never started a game over his eight-year professional career, he has notched 130 career saves.

Cotton becomes the second RedHawks player to receive the Relief Pitcher of the Year honors after George Schmidt received the award in 2000.

Northern League Relief Pitchers of the Year			
Year	Player	Team	
2007	Nate Cotton	Fargo-Moorhead	RedHawks
2006	Amad Stephens	Joliet	JackHammers
2005	Matt Hammons	St. Paul	Saints
2004	Chris Chavez	St. Paul	Saints
2003	Chris Chavez	St. Paul	Saints
2002	Matt Hammons	Joliet	JackHammers
2001	Chris Weidert	Lincoln	Saltdogs
2000	George Schmidt	Fargo-Moorhead	RedHawks



Mathis, the reigning 2006 Northern League Player of the Year, was voted the 2007 Top Defensive Player of the Year. Earlier in the week, Mathis was also named to the 2007 Post Season All-Star Team.

The 5-11, 185-pounder, started 87 games in center field for the RedHawks. In 197 total chances, he only committed two errors (.990 fielding percentage) in helping lead the RedHawks team defense to the second-best fielding percentage (.978) in the league and the pitching staff to the second-best team ERA (4.26) in the league. It marked the fourth straight season that Mathis started over 90% of the RedHawks games in center field (87 G – 2007, 96 G – 2006, 90 G – 2005, 96 G – 2004,).

The 33-year-old veteran of 15 seasons, was originally drafted in the 27th round of the 1993 draft by the Seattle Mariners. After seven years in the Mariners organization playing as high as Triple-A, he played three years with the Newark Bears (Atlantic League) before joining the RedHawks in 2003.

The Northern League will continue the seven days of naming the 2007 end-of-the-year award winners, concluding on September 13th:

- Sept. 7th – Post Season All-Star Team
- Sept. 8th – Playing Surface of the Year
- Sept. 9th – Relief Pitcher and Defensive Player
- Sept. 10th – Rookie Pitcher & Player of the Year
- Sept. 11th – Manager & Executive of the Year
- Sept. 12th – Player & Pitcher of the Year
- Sept. 13th – Organization of the Year

2007 Top Fielding Percentage by Position			
Pos.	Player	Fielding Pct	Team
1B	Jason Colson	.992	Vipers
2B	Mike Just	.990	RedHawks
3B	Tanner Townsend	.960	RailCats
SS	Nelson Castro	.979	Vipers
C	Dennis Blackmon	.996	JackHammers
OF	Drew Miller	.994	Vipers
P	Nat Harris	1.000	Flyers

Gary SouthShore RailCats Top Fielding Team (.979)

