

**Northern League Opens 17<sup>th</sup> Season**

The Northern League opened their 17<sup>th</sup> season on May 15, 2009 as the longest tenured independent league in baseball. For the second consecutive year the league consists of six teams: Winnipeg Goldeyes (16<sup>th</sup> season), Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks (14<sup>th</sup> season), Schaumburg Flyers (11<sup>th</sup> season), Gary Southshore RailCats (8<sup>th</sup> season), Joliet JackHammers (8<sup>th</sup> season), and Kansas City T-Bones (7<sup>th</sup> season). The league has announced the addition of an expansion team in Zion, IL to begin play in the 2010 season. For 2009, the 96-game regular season spans from May 15<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> with the top four regular season records qualifying 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 two playoff rounds will consist of a best-of-five series.



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**Weather Dominates Opening Night, but the 2009 Season Off and Running**

The Kansas City T-Bones had to begin the defense of the 2008 Northern League Title a day late due to inclement weather on Opening Night, but raised their championship banner a day later in front of 6,009 fans. However, setting the tone of the first month of the season, the Goldeyes ruined the T-Bones festivities with a comeback victory. Winnipeg has stormed out to a three game lead, largely due to a perfect 8-0 road record through the opening month. Playing right around .500-ball, the Red Hawks, Flyers, and T-Bones are all separated by no more than a game in the standings trailing the 11-3 Goldeyes.

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**Northern League Second in Indy Leagues for Per Game Attendance**

Early into the 2009 season, the Northern League narrowly trails the Atlantic League in per game attendance. Averaging 3,870 fans per game, the Northern League is only 84 fans behind the Atlantic's 3,954. The Winnipeg Goldeyes lead all indy teams with a 5,591 per game average. The St. Paul Saints (American Association), Long Island Ducks (Atlantic League), and Somerset Patriots (Atlantic League) are the only other teams averaging over 5,000 fans a game.

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**Former T-Bone Gets Call-up to L.A. Dodgers**

Former Kansas City T-Bones pitcher, Travis Schlichting, was recalled by the Los Angeles Dodgers on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He became the first former T-Bones player to make it to the major leagues. Schlichting, a converted infielder, was signed by the Dodgers organization after a successful rookie pitching campaign in 2007 with Kansas City. Prior to his big league recall, he was 1-0 with a 0.66 ERA and a save for Jacksonville (AA). Baseball America ranked his slider as the best in the Dodgers entire minor league system.



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**Northern League Alumni**

Over the previous 16 years, the Northern League has sent more than 600 players to major league organizations. Below is a list of current NL Alumni playing with affiliated teams:  
**Fargo-Moorhead** – Chris Coste (Phillies – Majors), Jon Weber (Rays – AAA)  
**Gary** – Tim Byrdak (Astros – Majors), Willie Glen (Marlins – AA), Jose Yopez (Mariners – AA), Tanner Townsend (Marlins – AA)  
**Joliet** – Tim Byrdak (Astros – Majors), Brian Mazone (Dodgers – AAA), Vince Perkins (Cubs – AAA), Justin Fiske (Cardinals – AA), Derrell McCall (Marlins – A)  
**Kansas City** – Travis Schlichting (Dodgers – Majors), Patrick Arlis (Brewers – AAA), Kevin Mahar (Phillies – AA), Mike Spidale (Phillies – AA)  
**Schaumburg** – Brad Ziegler (A's – Majors), Gabe DeHoyos (Padres – AAA), R.J. Swindle (Brewers – AAA)  
**Winnipeg** – George Sherrill (Orioles – Majors), Brian Myrow (White Sox – AAA), Josh Kite (Tigers – AA), Luis Alen (Mets – A)

**More Alumni Notes:** Chris Coste (Fargo-Moorhead 1996-99) continues to thrive as the backup to Phillies catcher Carlos Ruiz. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, he went 2-for-2 with a home run and two walks in a 4-2 Philadelphia victory... Brad Ziegler (Schaumburg 2004) has not officially been unseated as the Oakland closer, but he has only recorded one save since April 25th... George Sherrill (Winnipeg 2002-03) seems to have regained his form having converted on his last six save attempts. He has 10 consecutive scoreless appearances, lowering his ERA to 2.61. He ranks tied for sixth in the American League with 10 saves... Scott Richmond (Edmonton 2005-07) leads all American League rookies with 44 strikeouts. He also ranks third in wins (4) and fifth in ERA (3.50).



(all stats through May 31st)

**Standings**

	W	L	GB	Pct.
Winnipeg	11	3	---	.786
Fargo-Moorhead	8	6	3.0	.571
Schaumburg	7	6	3.5	.538
Kansas City	7	7	4.0	.500
Gary	6	10	6.0	.375
Joliet	4	11	7.5	.267

**Home Record**

	W	L	Pct.
Schaumburg	3	2	.600
Winnipeg	3	3	.500
Kansas City	5	6	.455
Fargo-Moorhead	4	5	.444
Gary	2	3	.400
Joliet	2	5	.286

**Road Record**

	W	L	Pct.
Winnipeg	8	0	1.000
Fargo-Moorhead	4	1	.800
Kansas City	2	1	.667
Schaumburg	4	4	.500
Gary	4	7	.364
Joliet	2	6	.250

**Attendance**

	Total	Openings	Avg.
Winnipeg	33,543	6	5,591
Kansas City	48,084	11	4,371
Schaumburg	17,593	5	3,519
Gary	17,179	5	3,436
Fargo-Moorhead	29,711	9	3,301
Joliet	20,314	7	2,902
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,424</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3,870</b>

**Team Batting**

	AVG	R	HR	SB
Winnipeg	.310	100	21	13
Fargo-Moorhead	.285	86	18	16
Kansas City	.280	76	16	12
Schaumburg	.258	65	11	8
Joliet	.248	54	9	17
Gary	.237	73	7	22

**Team Pitching**

	ERA	ER	BB	SO
Winnipeg	3.87	55	40	113
Fargo-Moorhead	3.90	55	59	99
Schaumburg	4.62	58	45	86
Gary	5.09	79	46	117
Joliet	5.14	74	56	108
Kansas City	5.36	76	39	107

**Team Fielding**

	%	G	E	TC
Kansas City	.982	14	10	567
Gary	.976	16	14	576
Schaumburg	.972	13	14	509
Fargo-Moorhead	.972	14	16	562
Winnipeg	.970	14	16	525
Joliet	.957	15	25	577

**Power Rankings**

	Rank	Pts	Prev.('08)
Winnipeg	1	26	3 (18)
Fargo-Moorhead	2	23	1 (28)
Schaumburg	3	19	6 (6)
Kansas City	4	17	4 (15)
Gary	5	13	2 (26)
Joliet	6	7	5 (12)

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



**Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks** - Manager Doug Simunic leads Fargo-Moorhead for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year... Simunic has posted winning seasons in all 16 years he has managed in the Northern League (873-549, .614) and has qualified for post-season play in 15 of those 16 seasons.

**RedHawks Franchise Records & Milestones (through 2008 season):**

Inaugural Season: 1996 Total Attendance: 2,312,102  
 Franchise Record: 737-434 (.629) Season High Attendance: 193,364  
 Most Wins in a Season: 64 (1998) Average Wins a Season: 57  
 Northern League Championships: Three ('98, '03, and '06)

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**Gary Southshore RailCats** – Manager Greg Tagert returns to the RailCats for his fifth season. Tagert has a sterling 163-126 (.564) record with the 'Cats and has led the team to the league championship series four consecutive seasons, taking home the crown in both 2005 and 2007.



**RailCats Franchise Records & Milestones (through 2008 season):**

Inaugural Season: 2002 Total Attendance: 929,018  
 Franchise Record: 321-340 (.486) Season High Attendance: 166,338  
 Most Wins in a Season: 58 (2007) Average Wins a Season: 46  
 Northern League Championships: Two ('05 and '07)

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**Joliet JackHammers** – Wally Backman returns for his second season as the JackHammers manager. He brings with him an impressive record of success, with three league championship titles in his managerial career (1999 Tri-City/Western League, 2002 Birmingham/Southern League, and 2007 South Georgia/South Coast League).



**JackHammers Franchise Records & Milestones (through 2008 season):**

Inaugural Season: 2002 Total Attendance: 1,368,850  
 Franchise Record: 308-352 (.467) Season High Attendance: 202,755  
 Most Wins in a Season: 53 (2002) Average Wins a Season: 44  
 Northern League South Division Second Half Titles: One ('02)

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**Kansas City T-Bones** – Andy McCauley leads the T-Bones for his third consecutive season after four successful years leading the Schaumburg Flyers. The 2004 Northern League Manager of the Year, led the T-Bones to the 2008 Northern League Title from the #4 Seed, upsetting Fargo and Gary respectively.



**T-Bones Franchise Records & Milestones (through 2008 season):**

Inaugural Season: 2003 Total Attendance: 1,526,519  
 Franchise Record: 271-296 (.478) Season High Attendance: 289,162  
 Most Wins in a Season: 48 (2004) Average Wins a Season: 45  
 Northern League Championships: One ('08)

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**Schaumburg Flyers** – Mike Busch returns to the Northern League after skipping the Calgary Vipers the previous four season (2005-07 in the NL). He led the Vipers to 50+ wins twice in that span and the team to Northern League Championship series in 2007.



**Flyers Franchise Records & Milestones (through 2008 season):**

Inaugural Season: 1999 Total Attendance: 2,086,743  
 Franchise Record: 412-506 (.449) Season High Attendance: 236,476  
 Most Wins in a Season: 58 (2004) Average Wins a Season: 41  
 Northern League First/Second Half Division Titles: Four ('99-both, '04, and '06)

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**Winnipeg Goldeyes** – Rick Forney enters his fourth season at the helm of the Goldeyes and his 13<sup>th</sup> with the organization. He pitched three seasons for the Fish prior to being the pitching coach for six years. Forney has led the Goldeyes to three consecutive appearances in the playoffs posting a 155-132 (.540) managerial record.



**Goldeyes Franchise Records & Milestones (through 2008 season):**

Inaugural Season: 1994 Total Attendance: 3,871,324  
 Franchise Record: 768-567 (.575) Season High Attendance: 323,241  
 Most Wins in a Season: 58 (1998) Average Wins a Season: 51  
 Northern League Championships: One ('94) NL Central Titles: Three ('99, '01, '02)

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**League Leaders – thru May 31<sup>st</sup>**

	<b>AVG</b>
	Felix JOSE <b>.429</b>

2 Wes Long	WIN	.413
3 Mike Massaro	GAR	.391
4 Dustin Richardson	WIN	.385
5 Aharon Eggleston	KC	.383

	<b>HR</b>
	Kevin WEST <b>5</b>


2t Randall Simon	F-M	4
2t Steve Haake	GAR	4
2t Craig Hurba	KC	4
2t Victor Ferrante	SCH	4

	<b>RBI</b>
	Kevin WEST <b>17</b>

2t Steve Haake	GAR	15
2t Nic Jackson	F-M	15
4t Yurendell DeCaster	F-M	13
4t Andrew Pickney	JOL	13

	<b>WINS</b>
	Broc COFFMAN <b>3</b>

1t Bear Bay	WIN	3
3t several players tied at		2

	<b>ERA</b>
	Garry BAKKER <b>1.47</b>

2 Ryan Knippschild	KC	1.86
3 Alex Rollin	GAR	2.57
4 Chris Jones	GAR	2.70
5t Luis Villarreal	KC	3.00

	<b>STRIKEOUTS</b>
	Garry BAKKER <b>25</b>

1t Daniel Haigwood	WIN	25
3t Luis Villarreal	KC	21
3t Onan Masaoka	GAR	21
5 Bear Bay	WIN	20