

Red Hot Month of July Pushes Fargo-Moorhead into Commanding Lead

With less than one-third of the regular season remaining, the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks have jumped out to a commanding seven game lead atop the Northern League standings. Behind a 20-6 record in the month of July, the Doug Simunic led RedHawks went on a stretch where they won 18 of 19 games from July 3rd to July 25th. Included in that span, was a 13 consecutive game winning streak.

While the RedHawks have not mathematically clinched a berth into the post-season and the Schaumburg Flyers have not been eliminated, both teams have separated themselves from the other teams in the league with only 28 games left to play. As a result, the race for the playoffs has begun to come down to four teams fighting for the final three spots. The Kansas City T-Bones, Gary SouthShore RailCats, Joliet JackHammers, and Winnipeg Goldeyes are only separated by one game in the loss column.

RedHawks Fall one Game Short of their Northern League Record Winning Streak

When Fargo won 13 consecutive games in July, they fell one game short of their Northern League record of 14 straight wins, established in 2005.



During their most recent stretch, the RedHawks outscored their opponents 93-34 and scored in the double-digits four times, including 20 runs on July 13th versus Schaumburg.

Former Northern Leaguer Makes Major League History

Former Schaumburg Flyers pitcher and now Oakland Athletics reliever, Brad Ziegler, recently sent his hat and cleats to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame after breaking the 101-year-old record of 27 consecutive scoreless innings to begin a career.

The record of 25 innings was previously held by Philadelphia's George McCullen in 1907. Ziegler, who made his MLB debut with the Athletics on May 31, set the American League record on July 22nd, a mark that had stood since 1945 and was by Boston's Boo Ferris. He pitched 1.1 scoreless innings July 25th to tie McQuillan's mark, and shut out Texas for two more frames July 27th to break the record that had stood since 1907.



Photo courtesy of Oakland Athletics

Ziegler began the 2008 season at Triple-A Sacramento and allowed one earned run in 24 1/3 innings for a 0.37 ERA before being called up to Oakland on May 30th. The right-hander has a 1.98 ERA between the majors and minors over the last two seasons, and he hasn't given up a homer in 128 1/3 innings since switching to a sidearm delivery.

"There are a lot of great pitchers who have debuted in the last 100 years, so to be at the top of that list right now feels great," said Ziegler.

Former Northern Leaguers to Represent Canada at Olympics

With the 2008 Summer Olympics set to begin on August 8th in Beijing, there are a number former Northern Leaguers set to represent Canada: Scott Richmond (Edmonton/2005-07), Chris Begg (St. Paul/2003), RJ Swindle (Schaumburg 2005-06), Ryan Radmonivich (Edmonton 2007), and Stubby Clapp (Edmonton/2005-06). Despite being named to the Olympic team, Richmond and Clapp will not be traveling to China due to their major league organization's commitments.





Alumni Notes: Scott Richmond (pictured left), made his major league debut for the Toronto Blue Jays on July 30th versus the Tampa Bay Rays. He pitched into the sixth inning allowing three runs while striking out four. Richmond, a native of North Vancouver, British Columbia, became the 14th Canadian to play for the Blue Jays... Alberto Castillo (Schaumburg 1999-2000), is 0-0 with a 2.08 ERA for the Baltimore Orioles. He made his major league debut on July 8th... Recently signed players from the Northern League that have found their way back to affiliated ball: Freddie

Thon-Joliet (Winston-Salem/White Sox), Kevin Mahar-K.C. (Clearwater/Phillies), Rob Watson-K.C. (Clearwater/Phillies), and Zach Penprase-Fargo (Greenville/Red Sox).

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



(all stats through July 31st)

Standings

	W	L	GB	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	42	26	---	.618
Kansas City	35	33	7.0	.515
Gary	34	33	7.5	.507
Joliet	33	33	8.0	.500
Winnipeg	33	34	8.5	.493
Schaumburg	25	43	17.0	.368

Home Record

	W	L	Pct.
Fargo-Moorhead	23	11	.676
Kansas City	17	17	.500
Gary	16	17	.485
Winnipeg	16	17	.485
Joliet	15	19	.441
Schaumburg	10	24	.294

Road Record

	W	L	Pct.
Joliet	18	14	.563
Fargo-Moorhead	19	15	.559
Gary	18	16	.529
Kansas City	18	16	.529
Winnipeg	17	17	.500
Schaumburg	15	19	.441

Attendance

	Total	Openings	Avg.
Winnipeg	197,921	31	6,385
Kansas City	200,726	34	5,904
Schaumburg	134,716	33	4,082
Fargo-Moorhead	117,707	32	3,678
Joliet	121,225	34	3,565
Gary	102,441	32	3,201
Total	874,736	196	4,463

Team Batting

	AVG	R	HR	SB
Joliet	.307	445	57	68
Fargo-Moorhead	.300	399	65	95
Kansas City	.297	440	78	92
Gary	.291	392	46	84
Winnipeg	.288	377	69	88
Schaumburg	.280	368	50	94

Team Pitching

	ERA	ER	BB	SO
Fargo-Moorhead	4.19	279	287	423
Gary	4.71	312	242	402
Winnipeg	4.93	319	217	432
Joliet	5.38	356	247	488
Kansas City	5.77	379	297	424
Schaumburg	6.73	445	303	374

Team Fielding

	%	G	E	TC
Fargo-Moorhead	.976	68	64	2,667
Gary	.974	67	68	2,633
Kansas City	.967	68	85	2,595
Winnipeg	.967	67	83	2,502
Schaumburg	.965	68	93	2,649
Joliet	.961	66	102	2,607

Power Rankings

	Rank	Pts	Prev.
Fargo-Moorhead	1	29	1 (27.5)
Gary	2	22	3 (18.5)
Joliet	3t	17	4 (15)
Kansas City	3t	17	5 (12.5)
Winnipeg	5	14	2 (24.5)
Schaumburg	6	6	6 (7)

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



Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks – The RedHawks need five more wins to ensure finishing the season with a record over .500. It would extend their league-record to 13 consecutive seasons... F-M is the only team in the Northern League with an above .500 home record (23-11, .676)... Continuing to lead the league in fielding percentage, F-M has committed only 64 errors through the first 68 games of the season. The RedHawks finished the month of July with a 20-6 record. They outscored their opponents 176-122 while compiling a .327 team batting average and 3.92 team ERA... F-M has a 32-6 (.842) record when they score first and are 30-2 (.938) when they have a lead after five innings.



Gary Southshore RailCats – The RailCats hit tough times in July going 10-16 (.385), losing 10 games in the standings to first place Fargo. Gary was in first place with a 1.5 game lead over Winnipeg on July 1st... On their way to the best record in the Northern League in 2007, the RailCats were 29-18 (.617) at home. In 2008, the RailCats are only 16-17 (.485) at the U.S. Steel Yard... Tony Cogan returned from injury on July 31st to throw five shutout innings, his first appearance since June 1st. Cogan is 3-1 with a 0.96 ERA in 2008... On his way to being named NL Pitcher of the Month, Koichi Misawa did not allow a run over 19.1 innings in July. He is 5-1 with a 0.30 ERA.



Joliet JackHammers – The JackHammers lead league with a .307 team batting average. The 'Hammers are averaging 6.7 runs per game and are currently on pace (643 runs) to break the league record of 619 runs scored in a season (Calgary – 2007)... Seven of Joliet's 11 active players are batting over .300. Juan Diaz who was activated to the roster on July 29th leads the way with a .372 batting average... Cory Harris, who holds the All-Time Northern League Record with a 28-game hitting streak in 2003, is currently riding a 14-game hitting streak... Joliet lost a 15-inning game on July 27th to Fargo 4-2. It moved their record in extra-inning games to 0-6 (.000) on the year.



Kansas City T-Bones – Despite having a better record on the road (18-16, .529) than at home (17-17, .500) is batting 37 points higher at home (.315 vs. .278)... After posting a league-worst 8-18 (.308) record in June, the T-Bones bounced back with a 15-11 (.577) record in July... The departures of Brad Correll (Royals), Rob Watson (Phillies), and Kevin Mahar (Phillies) to affiliated ball accounted for three of the top producers offensively for K.C. The three combined for nearly a third of the T-Bones offensive numbers: 128 runs scored (29%), 204 hits (29%), 34 home runs (44%), 145 RBI (35%)... Greg Jacobs, who was signed on July 15th, is 31-for 65 (.477) since coming back to K.C.



Schaumburg Flyers – The Flyers 25 wins after 68 games put them on pace to only win 35 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 nearly a full run higher than the next closest team (K.C. with a 5.77 ERA)... Jermaine Allensworth was red hot in the month of July. He batted .448 (43-for-96) with eight doubles and 21 RBI. His 43 hits in the month were the second-highest total in the league (Ruben Salazar - 44 hits)... After 34 games played each at home on the road, the Flyers have more wins (15) on the road, than at home (10).



Winnipeg Goldeyes – The Goldeyes have fallen on hard times since they were 30-22 (.577) and in first place on July 14th. Since then, the Fish have gone 3-13 (.188) and have fallen into fifth place, eight and half games out of first place. However, they are only trailing the second place T-Bones by one game in the loss column... Fehlandt Lentini is leading the league in numerous offensive categories: runs (53), total bases (155), triples (7), and hits (96)... NL League Leader in ERA, Brian Beuning, was placed on the disabled list on the disabled list on July 30th. His 1.63 ERA should qualify atop the leaders for another 10 games (78 games)... Winnipeg's 6,385 fans per game is the highest per game average in the independent leagues.

League Leaders



AVG
Brent
METHENY
.391

2	Jermaine Allensworth	SCH	.366
3	Tanner Townsend	GAR	.348
4	Rob Watson	KC	.348
5	Brad Correll	KC	.343

HR

Jim
FASANO
16



1t	Kevin West	WIN	16
3	Brad Correll	KC	15
4t	several players at		13

RBI

Jim
FASANO
70



2t	Tanner Townsend	GAR	53
2t	Doc Brooks	JOL	53
2t	Peanut Williams	SCH	53
2t	Kevin West	WIN	53

WINS

David
MORAGA
8



1t	Aaron Trolia	JOL	8
3t	Broc Coffman	F-M	7
3t	Jeremy Plexico	GAR	7
5t	several players at		6

ERA

Brian
BEUNING
1.63



2	Broc Coffman	F-M	2.42
3	Jeremy Plexico	GAR	2.44
4	Scott Koerber	F-M	2.47
5	Garry Bakker	F-M	2.83

STRIKEOUTS

Aaron
TROLIA
97



2	Nate Sevier	JOL	78
3	Bear Bay	WIN	68
4	Kenny Durost	KC	67
5	Broc Coffman	F-M	58