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Brinkley and Blackwell Named Northern League Player and Pitcher of the Month for June

The Northern League announced that Calgary Vipers outfielder Darryl Brinkley was named Northern League Player of the Month for June, and Gary RailCats pitcher Chad Blackwell received the Pitcher of the Month honors for the month of June.

Brinkley, who has already received Player of the Week honors twice in 2007, currently leads the league with a .407 average and 42 RBI, and is tied for second in the league with eight home runs. In the month of June, he led the league in batting (.453), RBI (25), hits (48), and slugging percentage (.670). There was no other player in the league with a slugging percentage over .600 in the month of June.



On the season, Brinkley has hit in 36 of 40 games, including 22 multi-hit games. Earlier this season he hit in a league-high 23 consecutive games (May 18th – June 13th). A catalyst at the top of the Calgary lineup, the Vipers have a 16-7 (.696) record in games where Brinkley scores a run.

The 5-11, 205-pound outfielder, has been playing professionally since 1994 and has played pro ball in Holland, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Korea, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico in addition to the United States. The Norwalk, CT native, batted .368 for the Vipers in 2006.

Darryl Brinkley – Player Statistics

	<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>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>
2007 -	.407	40	172	38	70	12	1	8	42	20	24	7	7	.475	.628
June -	.453	26	106	25	48	6	1	5	25	16	15	3	5	.528	.670



Blackwell, who received Pitcher of the Week honors earlier in the season (May 28th - June 3rd), just had his 20.1 consecutive scoreless innings streak snapped Saturday night. To date, it is the longest streak of the year in the Northern League. On the season, Blackwell is 4-0 with a 1.23 ERA and two saves. He is three innings shy of qualifying for the league lead in ERA.

In the month of June, the RailCats reliever was 2-0 with a 0.46 ERA. He walked only two batters while striking out 21 over 19-plus innings. The only run he yielded in the month was on June 30th versus the Winnipeg Goldeyes. He has been nearly un-hittable at home, going 3-0 with a 0.60 ERA. He has allowed only 11 base runners in 15 innings at the U.S. Steel Yard.

The native of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, signed with Gary in April following his release from the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. He had been acquired by the Pirates in the deal that sent major league pitcher Mark Redman to the Royals. Entering the '07 campaign, he had posted a career 3.60 ERA appearing in 93 games, all in relief, at the single-A and double-AA levels. He

The 6-0, 155-pound right-hander, played collegiately at the University of South Carolina where he led the nation in saves with 20 and earned All-American honors in 2004 while helping the Gamecocks to the College World Series and final # 3 ranking nationally.

Chad Blackwell – Player Statistics

	<u>W-L</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>	OPP.	<u>AVG</u>
2007 -	4-0	2	1.23	20	3	29.1	22	4	4	7	28		.224
June -	2-0	2	0.46	13	8	19.2	15	1	1	2	21		.221

