



GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

Game #68 | July 22, 2021 | PK Park | Eugene, OR

Eugene Emeralds (39-28) at Hillsboro Hops (29-37)

RHP Nick Avila (4-6, 7.22 ERA) vs. RHP Slade Cecconi (3-2, 4.70 ERA)

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LAST TIME OUT

After falling by one run on Wednesday night, the Emeralds prevailed by one run on Thursday night, erasing an early 3-0 deficit before hanging on late to earn a 5-4 victory. Ricardo Genoves and Brett Auerbach each homered, Auerbach doing so for the second straight night. Travis Perry came in to start the fourth in relief of Kai-Wei Teng and picked up his league-leading 7th win of the season, firing a scoreless 3.0 innings of work. Brett Auerbach extended his hit streak to 7 games last night. Chris Wright earned the save in a nervy ninth inning, inducing a game-ending 5-3 double play to net outs #26 and #27. Wright is now 10-for-10 in save opportunities between Low-A San Jose (4-for-4) and High-A Eugene (6-for-6).

TONIGHT'S STORYLINES

The Emeralds will face another top tier Diamondbacks pitching prospect in the form of RHP Slade Cecconi, a first-year pro out of Miami (FL). Cecconi will be facing Eugene for the 4th time in what will be his 11th start of the season. Meanwhile, Eugene's RHP Nick Avila makes his second consecutive start after sliding back into the rotation after operating as the first-man-out of the 'pen for an extended period. Avila tallied a career-high 9 K's his last time out (July 16 at Spokane) but earned the loss after surrendering 4 ER over 5.0 innings of work. The top of the lineup once again will see few changes from the first two games for either side after a pair of one-run games to start the series. Like Auerbach, Hillsboro's Dom Canzone enters tonight with homers in each of the first two games of the series thus far.

QUICK HITS

Quinn Wins High-A West Player of the Week

Quinn put together a week to remember during the teams' recent six-game road series in Spokane, going 9-18 (.500) with 4 HRs, 12 RBIs, 8 runs scored and 3 walks while slugging 1.167 and posting a 1.758 OPS. The former highly touted San Francisco Giants prospect has fought tough-luck injuries over the past few seasons, and prior to this week Quinn had only played in eight games as an Emerald since joining the team on June 15 despite being healthy upon his arrival. However, his patience paid off this past week in the form of ample playing time and incredible on-field results, most notably highlighted by a two-homer, six-RBI performance this past Wednesday that included a grand slam. Quinn homered in each of the first three games of last week's series in Spokane, showcasing smooth power in every direction at Avista Stadium. He is the fifth Emerald to receive a High-A West weekly honor this season, joining INF Tyler Fitzgerald, OF Franklin Labour, OF Diego Rincones, RHP Caleb Kilian (2).

Tale Of Two Pitching Staffs

Collectively, Eugene starting pitchers are 13-26 with a 6.30 ERA, the second-worst ERA by a starting pitching staff in High-A. Meanwhile, Eugene's bullpen has gone an absurd 26-2 with a 4.18 ERA and 400 K's in 310.0 innings pitched. No other team in the Minor Leagues has fewer than 5 bullpen losses (Charleston RiverDogs). Eugene's 400 bullpen K's rank 3rd in all of High-A.

The Wright Stuff

No Marte? No Dabo? No problem. Wright has slid into the closer role seamlessly after prior Emeralds closers Jose Marte and RJ Dabovich each received promotions to Double-A Richmond. In 27.0 innings pitched this season between Low-A San Jose and High-A Eugene, Wright has struck out an astounding 49 batters while going 10-for-10 in save opportunities.

Strikeout Savants

Through 67 games, the Eugene pitching staff leads the High-A West in strikeouts (729). Their 729 collective strikeouts are 14 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 715). But it doesn't stop there... the Emeralds rank 4th in all of High-A, too. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 729 K's rank 10th. Coincidentally, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A) lead all of Minor League Baseball with 850 K's. Entering Thursday night, San Jose's 850 K's are 75 more than the next closest team (Modesto Nuts | SEA | Low-A West).

Living On The Edge

After falling in extra innings to the Tri-City Dust Devils, 7-6, on May 20, the Emeralds have won eleven straight games decided by one run before falling to the Hillsboro Hops on July 21, 3-2, with the final out being made at home plate. After July 22's night's one-run win (5-4), the Ems are now 12-2 in one-run games.

The Clutch (E)Gene

Eugene has been one of the best teams hitting with two outs in all of High-A. Eugene ranks 2nd in AVG (.256), 3rd in runs (175), 2nd in hits (190), 2nd on OB% (.364) and 3rd

in OPS (.797) when hitting with two outs. It doesn't stop there, though. Eugene has come up big in late/close situations (definition below). Eugene ranks third all of High-A in AVG (.273), 2nd in runs scored (45), and 1st in OB% (.410), SLG (.494), and OPS (.904) in late/close situations.

The pitching staff has been just as good, too. In late/close situations, the Eugene ranks 1st in High-A in ERA (2.39) and opponent's average (.166).

Late/close definition per MLB.com: Late-inning pressure situations are defined as any at-bat in the seventh inning or later where the batter's team trails by three runs or fewer, is tied or is ahead by only one run. If the bases are loaded and the batting team trails by four runs, this also counts as a late-inning pressure situation.

Putting The Team On His Auerbach

After slashing .342/.448/.521 with 2 HRs and 17 RBIs in 34 games played for Low-A San Jose, do-it-all utility man Brett Auerbach is slashing .288/.354/.593 with 5 HRs and 17 RBIs in just 15 games as an Emerald, all while playing a myriad of positions: C, 2B, 3B, LF & CF.

Around The Affiliates

- Low-A San Jose fell 6-2 on Wednesday afternoon to see their season-high seven-game winning streak snapped. Pomares & Williams 2 hits each. Canario tripled. Murphy 7 IP, 2 H, 2 R, 0 BB, 12 SO. Another outstanding start from Ryan Murphy. Matched a season-high with 12 strikeouts over seven strong innings today. Allowed only two hits and two runs with no walks. Retired last 13. Murphy now leads Low-A West in strikeouts (105 in 70 IP). 4 straight starts of 10+ K's.

- Double-A Richmond was shut out for the second time this season with a 3-0 road loss against the Akron RubberDucks on Wednesday. Richie Palacios gave the RubberDucks a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the sixth, the only run allowed by Caleb Kilian in his outing. Kilian was charged with the first loss of his professional career. In the seventh, Mike Rivera added an RBI single and Chris Roller hit an RBI single in the bottom of the eighth. The Flying Squirrels were held to four hits in the loss. Richmond has won 12 of their last 17 games.

- Triple-A Sacramento fell 8-4 to the Round Rock Express yesterday, but the result paled in comparison to the larger celebration that took place in what was the final game of Drew Robinson's pro career. The outfielder from Las Vegas, Nev. competed in his final professional baseball game after announcing his retirement from baseball on Friday. Robinson batted .115 with 3 2B and 3 HRs in 111 plate appearances during his remarkable return to the diamond, including a two-bagger and a homer in front of his family and friends in Las Vegas on May 11. Robinson stepped to the plate in the first inning of Tuesday's matinee to a standing ovation from the crowd as players from both dugouts stepped out to applaud. Robinson's final opponent turned out to be a special one as the Round Rock Express served as his squad for the better part five seasons, totaling 259 games from 2014 to 2018.

EMS BY THE NUMBERS

Overall	39-28
Home*	18-14
Road	21-14
Neutral	0-0
Day	3-1
Night	36-27
Runs Scored	371
Runs Against	366
Run Differential	+5
Team AVG	.239
Team ERA	5.06
HR for/against	74/64
Strikeouts (pitching)	729
Strikeouts (hitting)	661
Current Streak	W1
Longest W Streak	W8
Longest L Streak	L5
Extra Innings	3-1
Shutouts	2-1
1-Run Games	12-2
May	15-9
June	17-8
July	6-11
August	0-0
September	0-0
Scoring First	26-9
Opponent Scores First	13-19
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	9-2
Wednesday	7-4
Thursday	5-6
Friday	6-5
Saturday	5-6
Sunday	7-3
vs. Everett	1-5
vs. Hillsboro*	10-4
vs. Spokane	3-3
vs. Tri-City	0-0
vs. Vancouver	4-2
at Everett	1-4
at Hillsboro	3-3
at Spokane	9-3
at Tri-City	4-2
at Vancouver	4-2
Series Openers	10-2
Series Finales	7-4

SF Giants Prospect Watch

Per MLB.com, the Emeralds boast 5 of the organization's top 30 prospects, 4 of which are active:

- #4 OF Hunter Bishop (IL)
- #5 LHP Seth Corry
- #17 1B Logan Wyatt
- #18 RHP Kai-Wei Teng
- #28 C Ricardo Genoves

Arizona Diamondbacks Prospect Watch

The Hops boast 5 of the Arizona Diamondbacks top 30 prospects:

- #5 LHP Blake Walston
- #6 RHP Slade Cecconi
- #16 2B/SS Blaze Alexander
- #24 RHP Drey Jameson
- #26 3B/OF Tristin English

Olympic Ems

Diego Rincones and the Venezuelan National Team's bid to make the Olympics came up just short on Saturday, with Venezuela falling to the Dominican Republic, 8-5, in the WBSC Baseball Final Qualifier held in Mexico. Rincones made his mark in the Final Qualifier, belting a three-run homer in the 2nd inning to put Venezuela up 3-0 at the time but a six-run 4th inning, helped the Dominican Republic roar back and hold on late for the win. During

the Final Qualifier, Rincones went 3-for-14 (.214) with 5 RBI, a double, and a HR in 4 games played. Rincones and two of his current teammates - RHP Jasier Herrera and OF Ismael Munguia - also each recently competed in the Olympic Qualifying Tournament held in Florida:

- Herrera (Columbia): 1 APP (vs. Venezuela) | 2.0 IP, 1 H, 1 BB, 0 R, 0 K
- Munguia (Nicaragua): 3 games | 6-for-12 (.500), 1 2B, 2 R. Led team in AVG.
- Rincones (Venezuela): 5 games | 4-for-19 (.211), 1 2B, 1 HR, 2 R | Hit walk-off HR vs. Columbia in bottom of 9th.

Rincones later suited up for the Venezuelan National Team during the WBSC Final Qualifier held in Mexico. The barrel-chested outfielder made his mark in both stints with the Venezuelan National Team, including a walk-off homer against Columbia in Florida and later a three-run homer against the Dominican Republic in the championship game of the Final Qualifier, a game that Venezuela would go on to lose, 8-5, to just miss out on qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics.

Olympic News and Notes

The Opening Round of the Olympics kicks off next week with the following matchups (all times PST):

- 7/28: Dominican Republic vs. Japan (8pm)
- 7/29: Israel vs. South Korea (3am)
- 7/30: Mexico vs. Dominican Republic (8pm)

HIGH-A WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB	RF	RA
Everett	44	22	.667	-	472	290
Eugene	39	28	.582	5.5	371	366
Vancouver	32	36	.471	13.0	334	355
Spokane	31	37	.456	14.0	334	355
Hillsboro	29	37	.439	15.0	280	324
Tri-City	26	41	.388	18.5	269	375

- 7/30: USA vs. Israel (3am)
- 7/31: Japan vs. Mexico (8pm)
- 7/31: USA vs. South Korea (3am)

Outfielder Julio Rodriguez, who played for the Everett AquaSox earlier this season, will be suiting up for the Dominican Republic. Fellow former AquaSox outfielder Patrick Kivlehan (2021) will be playing for Team USA, as will former Oregon Duck pitcher Scott McGough, who, coincidentally is married to former Emeralds intern, Lauren McGough (formerly Thompson).

TODAY'S PROBABLE STARTERS

#31 Nick Avila (RHP)

Height: 6'4 Weight: 195 lbs Acquired: Round 26, 776th (2019)
 Hometown: Modesto, CA School: Long Beach State
 Born: July 25, 1997 (23)

over 7 starts in Big West play while holding opposing batters to a .224 average during that span. Per Baseball America Draft Profile: "Avila pitched two years at San Joaquin Delta (Calif.) JC before transferring to Long Beach State this year. He had an oblique injury in the fall but bounced back to pitch effectively in the Dirtbags rotation in the spring. Avila pitches at 90-92 mph and touches 94 with sink on his fastball. He holds his velocity deep into his starts and induces a heavy volume of ground balls. His curveball and changeup both flash average and he throws enough strikes to remain a starter. Avila had ulnar nerve transposition surgery earlier in his career, so his health will need to be monitored."

PITCHES: 4-Seam Fastball, 2-Seam Fastball, Sinker, Cutter, Slider, Changeup

BIO: Started collegiate career at San Joaquin Delta College for two seasons before transferring to Long Beach State. In his lone season at LBSU, Avila posted an 0-5 record in 12 APPs (8 starts) over 56.1 IP with a 3.99 ERA, 19 BB and 39 K's while holding opposing batters to a .252 average. Avila moved from the bullpen to the starting rotation as the season progressed, posting a 3.19 ERA

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
4	6	7.22	13	5	0	0	0	0	52.1	75	46	42	8	1	15	0	51	.341	2

#22 Slade Cecconi (RHP)

Height: 6'4 Weight: 220 lbs Acquired: Round 1, 33rd (2020)
 Hometown: Oviedo, FL School: Miami (FL)
 Born: June 24, 1999 (22)

not for an injury his SR year of HS coupled with his strong commitment to U of Miami. Future reliever? Fastball-slider combination could make him effective in that role. Pitches: fastball (tops out at 97-98), slider, curve, change... slider is his best secondary pitch, considered one of the best in the Arizona system... improved his change at Arizona's alternate training site last year

PITCHES: Fastball, Curveball, Slider, Changeup

Notes: MLBpipeline.com says: D-backs #6 prospect, and #2 pitcher behind Blake Walston. 2020: pitched at D-Backs' alternate training site, his first pro experience. Drafted in Competitive Balance Round A: considered "first round," and signed to \$2.3 million bonus, slightly above slot value. 2020 as draft-eligible SO with U Miami: 4 starts, 2-1, 3.80, 21.1 ip, 15h, 7bb, 30k, 2hr, 2hb, 2wp. 2019 as a true freshman with U Miami: 17g (13 starts), 5-4, 4.16, 80ip, 79h, 18bb, 89k, 6hr, 7hb, 3wp Also drafted out of HS: 38th round by Baltimore; likely would have been a high draft pick if

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
3	2	4.70	10	10	0	0	0	0	46.0	45	25	24	4	3	19	0	47	.257	1

UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
Friday, July 23	7:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	LHP Seth Corry	RHP Justin Vernia
Saturday, July 24	7:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	RHP Aaron Phillips	RHP Drey Jameson
Sunday, July 25	5:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	RHP Conner Nurse	LHP Blake Walston
Tuesday, July 27	7:05pm PST	@ Everett AquaSox	RHP Kai-Wei Teng	TBD
Wednesday, July 28	7:05pm PST	@ Everett AquaSox	RHP Nick Avila	TBD
Thursday, July 29	7:05pm PST	@ Everett AquaSox	LHP Seth Corry	TBD