



GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

Game #63 | July 16, 2021 | Avista Stadium | Spokane, WA
Eugene Emeralds (36-36) at Spokane Indians (29-34)
RHP Nick Avila (4-5 7.23 ERA) vs. RHP Will Ethridge (0-4, 9.33 ERA)
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LAST TIME OUT

Well... that was an incredibly unideal ending to last night's game. Eugene, who was up 9-1 at one point and carried a 7-run lead into the eighth, surrendered 10 runs in that eighth inning - thanks in great part to issuing 7 walks in that frame - as the bullpen imploded to see the Indians win their first game of the series, 14-11. Eugene got homers from four different players - Heath Quinn, Tyler Fitzgerald, Ismael Munguia, and Carter Aldrete (grand slam) - to help push another big offensive performance, the third time this series that the Emeralds have put double digits up on the scoreboard. Aldrete's grand slam yesterday made it two straight games that the Emeralds had gotten a grand slam out of their lineup after Heath Quinn did the same on Wednesday in what was a two-homer, six-RBI night. Speaking of Heath Quinn, he continued his tear on Thursday night, mashing his fourth homer of the series. Last night was only the second time that the Eugene bullpen earned a loss this season. Eugene's 'pen is now 23-2 on the season, still by far the fewest losses posted by a bullpen in all of Minor League Baseball (next closest: Tampa Bay and Charleston with 5).

TONIGHT'S STORYLINES

RHP Nick Avila transitions back to a starting role after working as the first man out of the bullpen in each of his last few appearances. He'll face off against once of Colorado's top 30 prospects (per MLB.com) in the form of RHP Will Etheridge. Etheridge was dominant to start the season in Low-A Fresno, but he has struggled since his promotion to the Northwest, surrendering at least four runs in all four of his starts as an Indian. Armani Smith and Ricardo Genoves both rejoin the Emeralds lineup after a day off yesterday, and San Francisco native Robert Emery will be making his second consecutive start, this time at catcher after DH-ing yesterday. Carter Aldrete is in the lineup as well, making an appearance for the second consecutive day and the third time in four games this series. Aldrete has homered in three of his last four games played.

QUICK HITS

Wilson, Rincones Promoted To Richmond

On July 6, Will Wilson and Diego Rincones became the sixth and seventh Emeralds to be promoted to Double-A Richmond this season, joining RHP Jose Marte, RHP Caleb Kilian, INF Simon Whiteman, RHP RJ Dabovich, and C Brandon Martorano.

After 49 games as an Emerald, Wilson departed the Northwest ranked tied for second in the High-A West in home runs (10), tied for third in extra-base hits (26), fourth in total bases (97), fifth in slugging (.497), tied for sixth in runs scored (37), seventh in doubles (14), tied for eighth in hits (49), and ninth in OPS (.837). Meanwhile, Rincones leaves Eugene after 25 games as an Emerald having slashed .300/.385/.533 with 5 homers, 6 doubles, 15 RBIs and a .918 OPS. Rincones played just 25 games as an Emerald was not due to injury, but rather due to time spent with the Venezuelan National Team. Rincones, one of three Emeralds to play for their respective national teams this season (OF Ismael Munguia - Nicaragua | RHP Jasier Herrera - Columbia), spent two separate stints with the Venezuelan National Team this summer, first at the WSBC Olympic Qualifying Tournament held in Florida and later at the WSBC 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.

Can't Stop Quinn

What a week it's been, and we're only halfway through it. Quinn, formerly considered one of the top prospects in baseball before being plagued by injuries the last few years, has been out of this world this week in Spokane. Prior to this week, Quinn had played in 8 games with only one back-to-back in just short of two months with the Eugene Emeralds, slashing .200/.259/.320 w/ 3 doubles, 2 RBIs and 0 HRs in those 8 games. In just THREE games so far this series, Quinn is slashing .727/.769/1.818 with 2.587 OPS and has belted 4 HRs and tallied 12 RBIs.

Tale Of Two Pitching Staffs

Kudos to Steven in the Spokane Indians press box for pointing out the absurd splits between Eugene's starters and relievers. Collectively, Eugene starting pitchers are 13-24 with a 5.84 ERA. Meanwhile, Eugene's bullpen has gone an absurd 23-2 with a 4.11 ERA and 378 K's in 286.2 innings pitched. No other team in the Minor Leagues has fewer than 5 bullpen losses (Tampa Bay Tarpons, Charleston RiverDogs). Eugene's bullpen ERA ballooned up a whole .26 points after last night's eight inning meltdown that saw Spokane blate 10 runs while bringing 16 batters to the plate, thanks in-part to working 7 walks in the inning.

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 24.0 innings pitched this season between Low-A San Jose and High-A Eugene, Wright has struck out an astounding 47 batters while going 9-for-9 in

save opportunities.

Strikeout Savants

Through 62 games, the Eugene pitching staff leads the High-A West in strikeouts (684). Their 684 collective strikeouts are 15 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 669). But it doesn't stop there... the Emeralds ranked 2nd in all of High-A, too, trailing only the Hudson Valley Renegades (NYY) who have 694. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 684 K's rank 7th. Coincidentally, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A) lead all of Minor League Baseball with 789 K's. Entering Wednesday night, San Jose's 789 K's are 58 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 ten straight games decided by one run and are now 10-1 in one-run games.

The Clutch (Eu)Gene

Entering Wednesday, Eugene has been one of the best teams hitting with two outs in all of High-A. Eugene ranks 3rd in AVG (.252), 3rd in runs (153), T-2nd in hits (171), 2nd on OBP (.359) and 3rd in OPS (.780) when hitting with two outs. It doesn't stop there, though. Eugene has come up big in late/close situations (definition below). Eugene leads all of High-A in AVG (.286), OBP (.411), SLG (.419), and OPS (.931) while ranking 2nd in runs scored (42) in late/close situations.

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.

Around The Affiliates

- The San Francisco Giants had two players participate in the recent MLB Futures Game: SS Marco Luciano (San Jose Giants | Low-A) and Heliot Ramos (Richmond Flying Squirrels | Double-A). Luciano went 0-for-1 with walk while Ramos went 0-for-1.

- Former Emerald C Patrick Bailey, who started the season with the Emeralds before being sent down to the ACL on June 26, was promoted to Low-A San Jose Tuesday where he made his Low-A debut.

- Another good start for RHP Prelander Berroa for Low-A San Jose on July 13 vs. Modesto. Berroa worked six strong innings tonight with only one unearned run allowed. 5 H, 2 BB, 5 SO. FB was 94-97, top 98. Over his last four starts: 1.96 ERA, 23 IP, 8 BB, 24 SO.

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

EMS BY THE NUMBERS

Overall	36-26
Home*	17-13
Road	19-13
Neutral	0-0
Day	3-1
Night	33-25
Runs Scored	339
Runs Against	330
Run Differential	+9
Team AVG	.238
Team ERA	4.93
HR for/against	68/60
Strikeouts (pitching)	684
Strikeouts (hitting)	610
Current Streak	L1
Longest W Streak	W8
Longest L Streak	L5
Extra Innings	2-1
Shutouts	2-1
1-Run Games	10-1
May	15-9
June	17-8
July	4-9
August	0-0
September	0-0
Scoring First	25-9
Opponent Scores First	11-17
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	9-1
Wednesday	6-4
Thursday	5-6
Friday	6-4
Saturday	4-6
Sunday	6-3
vs. Everett	1-5
vs. Hillsboro*	9-3
vs. Spokane	3-3
vs. Tri-City	0-0
vs. Vancouver	4-2
at Everett	1-4
at Hillsboro	3-3
at Spokane	7-2
at Tri-City	4-2
at Vancouver	4-2
Series Openers	10-1
Series Finales	6-4

- #18 RHP Kai-Wei Teng
- #28 C Ricardo Genoves

Colorado Rockies Prospect Watch

The Indians boast 8 of the Colorado Rockies top 30 prospects, including 5 of the top 8:

- #3 1B Michael Toglia
- #5 3B Aaron Schunk
- #6 OF Brenton Doyle
- #7 LHP Helcris Olivarez
- #8 RHP Chris McMahon
- #24 OF Niko Decolati
- #28 RHP Shelby Lackey
- #30 RHP Will Ethridge

Toglia Tees Off In Futures Game

"I'll be honest," Toglia said of the first pitch. "I was swinging no matter what." Toglia, a 2019 first-round draft choice, hammered a first-pitch home run – a third-inning, two-run blast that helped propel the National League to an 8-3 victory over the American League. "That definitely put me on Cloud Nine," said Toglia. "This is the biggest stage that I've ever been in front of. ... First pitch, I was looking for a fastball. He came in, I stayed inside, and then kept it in the middle of the field." Homered off of Cole Ragans (Rangers). "[He] hits for power from both sides," said Ryan Vilade (Triple-A

Albuquerque) who also played in Futures Game. "He's a really good athlete and defender. I predict him being a gold glove at first base." Toglia said there is "no timestamp" for when he expects to make his leap to the major leagues. But the 6-foot-5, 226-pound infielder said: "I see myself as an every day, middle-of-the-order bat, run producer, and saving a lot of errors at first base... Seeing that many people in the stands, that's something that I've personally never seen before," Toglia said. "That really told me that: We're here. This is real." Of note, Toglia's former Spokane teammate, Willie MacIver, also played game, and is currently with the Double-A Hartford Yard Goats. MacIver entered the game in the fifth, struck out twice but successfully threw out a runner at third on a steal attempt.

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

HIGH-A WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB	RF	RA
Everett	40	21	.656	–	437	263
Eugene	36	26	.581	4.5	339	330
Vancouver	31	32	.492	10.0	312	323
Spokane	29	34	.460	12.0	295	319
Hillsboro	26	35	.426	14.0	253	302
Tri-City	24	38	.387	16.5	243	342

- 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.

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 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 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, Sink, Cutter, Slider, Changeup

BIO: Prior to today, had been used as the first man out of the bullpen following an 'opener' in his last 5 appearances. Avila had some decent results during that stretch, going 3-0 with 17 ER in 25.1 IP. 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)

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
4	5	7.23	12	4	0	0	0	0	47.1	67	42	38	7	1	14	0	42	.338	2

#34 Will Ethridge (RHP)

Height: 6'5 Weight: 240 lbs Acquired: Round 5, 159th (2019)
 Hometown: Liluburn, GA School: Ole Miss
 Born: December 20, 1997 (23)

Miss rotation, as the Friday night starter no less, raised his profile. That led to him landing in the fifth round of the 2019 Draft, and after pitching solidly in his brief debut that summer, he made quick work of Low-A ball in 2021 to earn a promotion in early June. At 6-foot-5, 240 pounds, Ethridge fits the prototype of future workhorse starter, albeit one without wow stuff. His fastball typically sits in the low 90s with some sink, leading to a fair amount of ground-ball outs. His slider and changeup both are average offerings, and he can elicit swings and misses with both. The breaking ball can get slurry at times when he struggles to stay on top of it, a challenge given he comes at hitters with a low three-quarters delivery. Ethridge has shown the ability to throw all three pitches for strikes and rarely walks hitters. His ability to work down in the zone could work to his advantage in Colorado, and if he can keep refining his secondary stuff to both miss bats and keep hitters off his fastball, he could be a back-end starter in the big leagues." Has given up at least 4 ER in all 4 starts with the Indians so far, but has gone at least 4.0 IP in all 4 outings as well. Pitched for Short-Season Boise in 2019, going 0-2 with a 3.82 ERA, 21 K and 6 BB in 9 starts (30.2 IP).

PITCHES: Fastball, Slider, Changeup

Notes: #30 ranked prospect in Rockies system per MLB.com. Started season with Low-A Fresno Grizzlies where he went 3-1 with a 2.56 ERA in 6 starts (31.2 IP), tallying 32 K's while issuing just 2 walks. Opposing batters hit .191 off Ethridge in the Low-A West. Scouting Report per MLB.com, " Teams were interested in Ethridge in high school in 2016, when he starred for Georgia powerhouse Parkview, but his commitment to

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
0	4	9.33	4	4	0	0	0	0	18.1	24	20	19	2	2	5	0	23	.312	0

UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
Saturday, July 17	6:30pm PST	@Spokane Indians	LHP Seth Corry	LHP Breiling Eusebio
Sunday, July 18	5:09pm PST	@Spokane Indians	RHP Aaron Phillips	LHP Helcris Olivarez
Tuesday, July 20	7:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	RHP Conner Nurse	TBD
Wednesday, July 21	7:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	RHP Kai-Wei Teng	TBD
Thursday, July 22	7:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	RHP Nick Avila	TBD
Friday, July 23	7:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	LHP Seth Corry	TBD