



GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

Game #71 | July 25, 2021 | PK Park | Eugene, OR

Eugene Emeralds (40-30) at Hillsboro Hops (31-38)

RHP Conner Nurse (1-6, 6.08 ERA) vs. LHP Blake Walston (1-1, 3.79 ERA)

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LAST TIME OUT

Five straight games decided by one run: two won by the Ems, three won by the Hops. It was another nail-biter last night that ended with the Ems kicking themselves over what could have been after falling, 3-2, in a game that was ultimately decided by a throwing error at second and a lack of timely late-inning hitting. The Ems have dropped back-to-back games when scoring first, dropping their season record when scoring first to 26-11. Hillsboro got 6.0 strong innings from Drey Jameson last night, the fourth time in five games this series that a Hops starting pitcher has fired at least 6.0 innings. By contrast, the Emeralds have only gotten 6.0 innings from a starting pitcher four times all season. The Emeralds extended their homer streak to 13 consecutive games after a towering opposite field blast by Ricardo Genoves gave the Emeralds a 1-0 lead the second inning.

TONIGHT'S STORYLINES

The Ems aim for a series split while looking to avoid dropping just their third series of the season, with both of the previous two series losses coming at the hands of the Everett AquaSox. It's a rematch of Tuesday's series opener with left-hander Blake Walston facing off against right-hander Conner Nurse. Walston fired 8.0 innings with just 1 ER and 11 K's on Tuesday while Nurse went 5.0 IP with 3 ER and 4 K's.

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 13-27 with a 5.93 ERA, the second-worst ERA by a starting pitching staff in High-A (Asheville Tourists). Eugene has only gotten 6.0 innings out of a starting pitcher FOUR times this season:

- Caleb Kilian: May 22 at TC (7.0 IP)
- Kai-Wei Teng: June 22 vs. VAN (6.0 IP)
- Conner Nurse: June 26 vs. VAN (6.1 IP)
- Aaron Phillips: July 1 at HIL (7.0 IP)

By contrast, Hillsboro has gotten 6.0 innings out of their starting pitchers in four out of five games this series.

Meanwhile, Eugene's bullpen has gone an absurd 27-3 with a 4.25 ERA and 415 K's in 324.1 innings pitched, but this past Friday marked the second time in just over a week that the Emeralds' pen saw a large margin dissipate in just one inning after what was a ten-run eighth inning by Spokane on July 15 that turned a seven-run Eugene lead into a three-run deficit. No other team in the Minor Leagues has fewer than 6 bullpen losses (Charleston RiverDogs, Tampa Tarpons). Eugene's 403 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 49 batters while going 10-for-10 in saves.

Strikeout Savants

Through 70 games, the Eugene pitching staff leads the High-A West in strikeouts (751). Their 751 collective strikeouts are 8 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 743), and the Ems rank 5th in all of High-A, too. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 751 K's rank 15. Coincidentally, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A) lead all of Minor League Baseball with 884 K's. Entering today, San Jose's 884 K's are 82 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 had won 11 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. The Emeralds are 13-4 in one-run games this season.

The Clutch (Eu)Gene

Eugene has been one of the best teams hitting with two outs in all of High-A. Eugene ranks 2nd in AVG (.254), 3rd in runs (178), 2nd in hits (197), 2nd on OBP (.360), 3rd in SLG (.434) and 3rd in OPS (.794) when hitting with two outs. It doesn't stop there, though. Eugene has come up big in late/close situations (definition below). Eugene ranks 7th all of High-A in AVG (.254), 5th in runs scored (46), and 2nd in OBP (.394), 2nd in SLG (.455), and 1st in OPS (.845) in late/close situations. The pitching staff has been just as good, too. In late/close situations, the Eugene ranks 4th in High-A in ERA (3.02) and 1st in opponent's average (.188).

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

- Low-A San Jose rolled to an 8-1 victory on Saturday night. Prelander Berroa fired 6.0 scoreless innings with 1 hit allowed, no walks 6-9 strikeouts - retired 18 of 19 hitters, including the final 16 batters he faced. FB 94-97, topped at 99. Berroa has a 1.60 ERA in his last six starts (10 BB/42 SO in 33 2/3 IP). Berroa went to a three-ball count on only three of the 19 batters he faced on Saturday and Stockton hit only four balls out of the infield during the six innings he was on the mound. Jimmy Glownke 6 Layer hit back-to-back homers. Jairo Pomares belted a pinch-hit 3-run HR. Luis Matos 2-run double. SJ snapped a season-high 3-game skid after previously winning 7 straight. With three more round-trippers on Saturday, the Giants have now hit 92 home runs this season - second in Low-A West. The Giants and Ports conclude their six-game series on Sunday evening with first pitch at Excite Ballpark set for 5:00 PM. Carson Ragsdale is San Jose's scheduled starting pitcher.

- Double-A Richmond (38-34) lost the series finale to the Akron RubberDucks, 3-2, on Sunday afternoon at Canal Park for their fifth straight loss. The Flying Squirrels (38-34) closed within a run in the ninth but fell short, dropping the final five games of the road series against the RubberDucks (43-27). With two outs in the top of the ninth, Diego Rincones doubled and Andy Sugilio replaced him as a pinch-runner. Frankie Tostado unleashed an RBI single into center, scoring Sugilio from second to cut the deficit to 3-2. Jose Marte entered in the seventh with two outs, striking out Jonathan Engelmann on three pitches. After Marte allowed two runners with one out in the eighth, R.J. Dabovich induced back-to-back flyouts to end the frame. The Flying Squirrels are off Monday before starting up the first of six-game series against the Bowie Baysox at The Diamond. Right-handed pitcher Caleb Kilian (3-1, 2.14) will get the start for Richmond on Tuesday and Bowie has not announced their starter.

- Triple-A Sacramento (29-39) toppled the Tacoma Rainiers (36-32) on Saturday night. Johnson, who entered game three of the series with just six hits in his last 39 at-bats, raked two singles, a double, and his sixth home run of the year while driving

EMS BY THE NUMBERS

Overall	40-30
Home*	19-16
Road	21-14
Neutral	0-0
Day	3-1
Night	37-29
Runs Scored	386
Runs Against	382
Run Differential	+4
Team AVG	.239
Team ERA	5.05
HR for/against	81/65
Strikeouts (pitching)	751
Strikeouts (hitting)	703
Current Streak	L2
Longest W Streak	W8
Longest L Streak	L5
Extra Innings	4-1
Shutouts	2-1
1-Run Games	13-4
May	15-9
June	17-8
July	7-13
August	0-0
September	0-0
Scoring First	26-11
Opponent Scores First	14-19
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	9-2
Wednesday	7-4
Thursday	6-6
Friday	6-6
Saturday	5-7
Sunday	7-3
vs. Everett	1-5
vs. Hillsboro*	11-6
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

in four runs in an impressive 4-for-4 night at the plate that also included a walk. It's Johnson's 19th multi-hit game, though not the most he's had in a game this season as he went 5-for-5 on May 10 at Las Vegas. Toffey, who joined the River Cats on July 3 when he was acquired from the New York Mets in exchange for lefty Anthony Banda, went 2-for-3 with a walk while clearing the fence for the first time at the new level. Toffey had 611 plate appearances in 166 games in Double-A before debuting on July 9. Sunday's doubleheader looms in what will be a pair of seven-inning ballgames to make up for a rained-out contest back on June 13. Sacramento right-hander Akeel Morris will take the ball for game one while Tacoma will send lefty Ian McKinney to the mound. Both squads have yet to announce a starter for part two of the twin bill. First pitch for game one is set for 12:05 p.m. (PT), while game two will follow at 5:05 p.m.

SF Giants Prospect Watch

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

- #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, Jasier Herrera and Ismael Munguia each 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.
- 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 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.

Olympic News and Notes

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

HIGH-A WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB	RF	RA
Everett	46	23	.667	-	494	302
Eugene	40	30	.571	6.5	386	382
Spokane	33	38	.465	14.0	348	358
Vancouver	33	38	.465	14.0	346	377
Hillsboro	31	38	.449	15.0	296	339
Tri-City	27	43	.386	19.5	277	389

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

#35 Conner Nurse (RHP)

Height: 6'6 Weight: 210 lbs Acquired: Round 34, 1026th (2017)
 Hometown: Winter Garden, FL School: Ridge HS (FL)
 Born: July 32, 1999 (21)

throughout. Primary righthanded pitcher, steady tempo to delivery throughout, shows balance and ability to repeat, leading to lots of strikes. Medium arm stroke through the back, work to a near over-the-top release point, does a nice job of working on top of the ball to generate nice angle on fastball. Topped out at 90 mph, mostly true in life, tough pitch to elevate due to plane. Curveball shows hammer depth at 79 mph from similar release point, present strikeout pitch and will manipulate shape/velocity to pitch early in count. Has confidence and feel in his changeup, occasional hard fading life at 74 mph, projects with additional arm speed. Nice feel for a full arsenal and throws off speed pitches for strikes regularly. Righthanded hitter, wide base in the box with a short and inside swing path. Looks to lift and pull the ball, can turn on inner half pitch and flashes pop off the barrel. Named to World Showcase Top Prospect List. Good student. Committed to Seminole State College of Florida.

PITCHES: 4-Seam Fastball, 2-Seam Fastball, Cutter, Slider, Splitter

BIO: Signed for \$250,000, \$125,000 over slot. Did not pitch during the 2017 season due to a right rotator cuff strain. Did not pitch during the 2017 season due to a right rotator cuff straign. Just 21-years old, Nurse is pitching in his first full season of pro ball after spending 2018 in Rookie-ball down in Arizona, then splitting time between Arizona and the short-season Northwest league in 2019. Per Perfect Game coming out of high school: "Extra-large, athletic frame with broad shoulders and long limbs, leaner build with room to fill but also has present strength throughout. Primary righthanded pitcher, steady tempo to delivery throughout, shows balance and ability to repeat, leading to lots of strikes. Medium arm stroke through the back, work to a near over-the-top release point, does a nice job of working on top of the ball to generate nice angle on fastball. Topped out at 90 mph, mostly true in life, tough pitch to elevate due to plane. Curveball shows hammer depth at 79 mph from similar release point, present strikeout pitch and will manipulate shape/velocity to pitch early in count. Has confidence and feel in his changeup, occasional hard fading life at 74 mph, projects with additional arm speed. Nice feel for a full arsenal and throws off speed pitches for strikes regularly. Righthanded hitter, wide base in the box with a short and inside swing path. Looks to lift and pull the ball, can turn on inner half pitch and flashes pop off the barrel. Named to World Showcase Top Prospect List. Good student. Committed to Seminole State College of Florida."

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
1	6	6.08	13	13	0	0	0	0	60.2	69	44	41	12	1	30	0	56	.286	2

#34 Blake Walston (LHP)

Height: 6'1 Weight: 175 lbs Acquired: Round1, 26th (2019)
 Hometown: Wilmington, NC School: New Hanover HS (NC)
 Born: June 28, 2001 (20)

1er, 0bb, 11k), then joined Hops on 8/21/19 for stretch run and postseason (3gs in reg seas, 0-0, 3.00, 6ip, 6h, 2r, 2er, 2bb, 7k) 1 app. for Hops in 2019 postseason: was starter in G2 of NWL Championship Series against Tri-City; faced just 5 batters, allowing a single, back-to-back walks to load the bases, getting a strikeout and hitting a batter before being lifted; he would allow 4 runs (all earned); later in the inning T-C's Johnny Homza hit a grand slam and T-C scored six in the first en route to a 9-1 win 2019 as a SR at New Hanover High School (Wilmington, NC): 12-0, 0.20, 68.2ip, 129k, was North Carolina's Gatorade Player of the Year, led New Hanover to back-to-back state titles (and also won one in football). Had been committed to pitch for: North Carolina State U. Bonus: \$2.45 million. Wasn't a regular on the high school showcase circuit: in part because he was a high school quarterback. Starred as a left-handed QB at New Hanover HS: as a junior in 2017, he led the state with 4,340 passing yards, and led New Hanover to a state title. Brother Garrett: a sixth-yr senior tight end at U North Carolina in 2021; made 11 starts in 2020, had 19 catches for 255y including 2 TDs; caught UNC's first TD of the year vs Syracuse Blake thought about accepting an offer to play college football: "I thought about it. I had an opportunity from a couple of schools. I just decided baseball is probably a little easier on the body." Also from New Hanover HS: Trot Nixon, selected by the Red Sox with the 7th pick of the 1st round in 1993 Full name: Matthew Blake Walston Pitches: fastball (93-97), curve (77-79), slider, change-up

PITCHES: Fastball, Curveball, Slider, Changeup

Notes: Joined Hops on June 28th. One of youngest players in league: turned 20 on June 28th, the day he joined Hops. MLBpipeline.com #5 prospect for D-backs: and #1 pitcher. Began season with Low-A Visalia: 8g (all starts), 2-2, 3.32, 43.1ip, 34h, 17bb, 60k, 4hr, 0hb, 6wp Longest outing this year at Low-A: 6.2 ip in best start as pro, 6/16 at Rancho Cucamonga, 3h, 0r, 2bb, 8k 2020 at D-backs Alternate Site and Instructional Lg: did well at Alt Site as a 19-year-old against much older competition. Pro debut season right out of HS in 2019: started in AZL (3g, 2 starts, 5ip, 2h, 1r, 1er, 0bb, 11k), then joined Hops on 8/21/19 for stretch run and postseason (3gs in reg seas, 0-0, 3.00, 6ip, 6h, 2r, 2er, 2bb, 7k) 1 app. for Hops in 2019 postseason: was starter in G2 of NWL Championship Series against Tri-City; faced just 5 batters, allowing a single, back-to-back walks to load the bases, getting a strikeout and hitting a batter before being lifted; he would allow 4 runs (all earned); later in the inning T-C's Johnny Homza hit a grand slam and T-C scored six in the first en route to a 9-1 win 2019 as a SR at New Hanover High School (Wilmington, NC): 12-0, 0.20, 68.2ip, 129k, was North Carolina's Gatorade Player of the Year, led New Hanover to back-to-back state titles (and also won one in football). Had been committed to pitch for: North Carolina State U. Bonus: \$2.45 million. Wasn't a regular on the high school showcase circuit: in part because he was a high school quarterback. Starred as a left-handed QB at New Hanover HS: as a junior in 2017, he led the state with 4,340 passing yards, and led New Hanover to a state title. Brother Garrett: a sixth-yr senior tight end at U North Carolina in 2021; made 11 starts in 2020, had 19 catches for 255y including 2 TDs; caught UNC's first TD of the year vs Syracuse Blake thought about accepting an offer to play college football: "I thought about it. I had an opportunity from a couple of schools. I just decided baseball is probably a little easier on the body." Also from New Hanover HS: Trot Nixon, selected by the Red Sox with the 7th pick of the 1st round in 1993 Full name: Matthew Blake Walston Pitches: fastball (93-97), curve (77-79), slider, change-up

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
1	1	3.79	4	4	0	0	0	0	19.0	18	12	8	5	1	8	0	28	.243	2

UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
Tuesday, July 27	7:05pm PST	@ Everett AquaSox	LHP Jake Dahlberg	TBD
Wednesday, July 28 (G1)	5:05pm PST	@ Everett AquaSox	RHP Kai-Wei Teng	TBD
Wednesday, July 28 (G2)	TBD	@ Everett AquaSox	RHP Nick Avila	TBD
Thursday, July 29	7:05pm PST	@ Everett AquaSox	LHP Seth Corry	TBD
Friday, July 30	7:05pm PST	@ Everett AquaSox	RHP Aaron Phillips	TBD
Saturday, July 31	7:05pm PST	@ Everett AquaSox	RHP Conner Nurse	TBD