



GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

HIGH-A WEST CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Game One | September 21, 2021 | Avista Stadium | Spokane, WA

Eugene Emeralds (69-50) vs. Spokane Indians (67-48)

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LAST TIME OUT

Eugene ended the regular season with their third straight win, downing the Tri-City Dust Devils by a final of 8-4 to take 4-of-5 against TC. Blake Rivera put forth his best start as an Emerald to date, firing 3.0 scoreless innings with 6 K's. Eugene struck first behind a three-run third inning behind a Jairo Pomares 2-RBI single and a Sean Roby RBI single. That 3-0 advantage held until the top of the fifth when the Dust Devils leveled the score thanks to a Kyren Paris RBI single, a Kevin Maitan RBI double, and a wild pitch by Nick Morreale that scored a runner from third. It stayed only 3-3 for a matter of minutes, though, as the Emeralds responded in the home half of the inning by batting around and plating four runs in the process. Eugene retook the lead in the bottom of the fifth when Marco Luciano singled to score Kwan Adkins, thanks in-part to an error by Tri-City right fielder William Rivera. Later in the inning, Sean Roby made it 5-3 with an RBI single to score Brett Auerbach, Tyler Fitzgerald made it 6-3 with an RBI double to score Marco Luciano, and Franklin Labour helped make it 7-3 by reaching on a fielding error by Dust Devils second baseman Kevin Maitan that resulted in another Emeralds run scoring. Tri-City got a run back in the seventh on a Kenyon Yovan solo homer, but Eugene responded with a solo homer of their own when Ricardo Genoves launched his seventh homer as an Emerald in the eighth inning to restore Eugene's four-run advantage and cap an 8-4 victory on the final day of the regular season.

TODAY'S STORYLINES

The matchup is finally here. FINALLY. The Ems and Indians face off in the first-ever High-A West Championship, a best-of-five matchup to decide the High-A West Champion. The Indians enter the series as the hottest team in all of Minor League Baseball while Eugene has been consistently at-or-near the top of the standings all season long. Eugene is 12-6 against the Indians this season, including 9-3 at Avista Stadium, but this week's matchup will mark the first meeting between the two teams since mid-July. Eugene's LHP Seth Corry will start on the mound against LHP Helcris Olivarez for Spokane. Cory has been exceptional since returning from the Developmental List (8/29), firing 8.1 scoreless innings over 4 outings with 11 K's, 4 BB and just 3 hits allowed. Similarly, Olivarez has been improved of late, posting a 2-1 record with a 3.82 ERA in 6 APPs (5 starts). Against Eugene this season, Olivarez is 0-3 with an 8.15 ERA in 5 starts. Both teams enter the postseason with momentum: Eugene has won 3 straight and is 8-2 in their last 10 while Spokane has won 4 straight and is 7-3 over their last 10. The Indians are 35-23 at home this season. Eugene is aiming for their 3rd league title over the last 5 seasons having won the Northwest League in 2016 and 2018. Spokane will be aiming for their first league title since 2008. The last time these two teams met with a title on the line, Eugene won the 2018 NWL Championship thanks to the now-infamous 'balk off' when Spokane's Emmanuel Clase, now pitching in the Majors for the Cleveland Indians, balked home the title-winning run.

QUICK HITS

Ems, Indians Meet For First-Ever High-A West Title

The High-A West Championship Series is finally here, and the schedule shakes out as follows:

- GAME ONE: Tuesday, September 21 | 6:30pm PST
- GAME TWO: Wednesday, September 22 | 6:30pm PST
- GAME THREE: Thursday, September 23 | 6:30pm PST
- GAME FOUR (if necessary): Friday, September 24 | 6:30pm PST (if necessary)
- GAME FIVE (if necessary): Saturday, September 25 | 11:00pm PST (if necessary)

Every game of the High-A West Championship Series will be played at Avista Stadium in Spokane, Washington. The Emeralds will play as the 'away' team for Games 1-2 and play as the 'home' team for Games 3-5.

Spokane does not provide an MiLB.tv online broadcast, but fans can follow along by tuning via 95.3FM The Score, the MiLB First Pitch App, or at www.EmeraldsBaseball.com.

The Ems have been a model of consistency all season long, having never fallen out of the top half of the High-A West standings at any point this season. Meanwhile, the Indians enter the postseason as the hottest team in pro baseball having finished the regular season on an astounding 33-10 run, the best record in all of Minor League Baseball during that stretch. The Indians chased down the AquaSox by going 13-3 against the Frogs over the final 16 meetings between the two teams this season.

This week's matchup will mark the first time these two teams have met since July 13-18. Over this season's three previous series between the Ems and Indians, Eugene has gone 12-6 against Spokane while winning two series and splitting another. The Ems are 9-3 at Avista Stadium this season.

Two Very Different Tales

The Emeralds are headed back to the High-A West Championship Series. Eugene clinched their spot in the postseason on Wednesday night behind a 6-0 win, a dominant performance in all facets. Eugene scored in 5 of 8 trips to the plate, belted two homers, turned three double plays, and got 18 strikeouts from 6 different pitchers. The Emeralds will face off against the Spokane Indians who, coincidentally, also clinched their postseason spot on Wednesday night behind a 6-3 victory over the Everett AquaSox. The matchup between the Ems and Indians will be a best-of-five series that will determine the High-A West Champion. The series is slated to start on Tuesday, September 21. The entirety of the series will be played at Avista Stadium in Spokane, Washington.

The looming postseason meeting between the Ems and Indians is a surprising one, to say the least. Entering play on July 29, the High-A West standings stood as follows:

1. Everett (49-24)
2. Eugene (42-32, 7.5 GB)
3. Spokane (34-40, 15.5 GB)
3. Vancouver (34-40, 15.5 GB)
5. Hillsboro (32-40, 16.5 GB)
6. Tri-City (29-44, 20.0 GB)

From July 29 until September 15 (the night that both Spokane and Eugene clinched playoff spots), Everett went 12-30 (tied for the second-most losses in MiLB during span), Spokane went 31-9 (best record in MiLB during span), and Eugene went 24-17. A further breakdown of that stretch:

- Everett (12-30):
 - 6.44 ERA (worst in MiLB)
 - 298 runs allowed (2nd most in MiLB)
 - 73 HRs allowed (4th most in MiLB)
 - .291 OBP AVG (6th worst in MiLB)
 - 469 K's while batting (1-8th most in MiLB)

- Spokane (31-9):
 - .292 AVG (3rd best in MiLB)
 - .363 OBP (2nd best in High-A)
 - .994 FLD PCT. (6th best in MiLB)

- Eugene (24-17):
 - .474 SLG (4th in High-A)
 - .811 OPS (6th in High-A)
 - 455 K's (8th in MiLB)

Roby Is Rolling

At the end of July, Sean Roby was batting .188 with a .248 OBP and slugging .390. In 39 games since then, Roby is batting .320 with a 11 doubles, 10 HRs, a .389 OBP, slugging .607 and an OPS of .996. Roby's .320 batting average since the start of August ranks 3rd in the High-A West among qualified players while his 1.012 OPS ranks 8th in all of High-A.

The Amazing Munguia

Since July 30, Ismael Munguia became a man possessed. He enters tonight with, by far, the best batting average in Minor League Baseball since July 30 (min. 50 PA) batting .485 (49-for-101). During that stretch, he has tallied a hit in 22 of 23 games played and multiple hits in 18 of those 23 games.

Strikeout Savants

At the conclusion of the regular season, the Eugene pitching staff led the High-A West in strikeouts with 1,311. Their 1,311 collective strikeouts are 78 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 1,233), and the Ems rank 2nd in ALL of High-A, too, trailing only the Greenville Drive. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 1,311 K's rank 3rd. Coincidentally, the team below the Emeralds in the San Francisco Giants minor league system, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A), led all of Minor League Baseball with 1,439 K's. Entering today, San Jose's 1,439 K's are 124 more than the next closest team.

Living On The Edge

After falling in extra innings to the Dust Devils, 7-6, on May 20, the Emeralds enjoyed a stretch that saw them win 11 consecutive 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 22-11 in one-run games this season.

The Clutch (E)Gene

Eugene has been one of the best teams hitting with two outs in all of High-A. Eugene ranks 5th in AVG (.248), 4th in runs (273), 6th in hits (319), 8th on OBP (.343), 8th in SLG (.426) and 6th in OPS (.769) when hitting with two outs. It doesn't stop there, though. Eugene has come up big in late/close situations (definition below). Eugene ranks 2nd all of High-A in AVG (.275), 2nd in OBP (.393), 1st in SLG (.497), and 1st in OPS (.890) in late/close situations. The pitching staff has been just as good, too. In late/close situations, the Eugene pitching staff ranks 6th in High-A in ERA (3.25) and 1st in opponent's average (.190).

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.

Tale Of Two Pitching Staffs

Collectively, Eugene starting pitchers are 24-41 with a 5.45 ERA, the fourth-worst ERA by a starting pitching staff in High-A. Eugene has only gotten 6.0 innings out of a starting pitcher 14 times this season... but 10 of those occurrences have come since the start of August:

- 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)
- Conner Nurse: August 6 vs. TRI (6.0 IP)
- Jake Dahlberg: August 7 vs. TRI (6.0 IP)
- Ryan Murphy: August 14 at HIL (7.0 IP)
- Kai-Wei Teng: August 21 vs. EVE | Game 1 (7.0 IP)
- Aaron Phillips: August 22 vs. EVE (7.0 IP)
- Conner Nurse: August 24 at TRI (6.1 IP)
- Jake Dahlberg: September 5 at HIL (6.0 IP)
- Kai-Wei Teng: September 9 vs. EVE (6.0 IP)
- Conner Nurse: September 10 vs. EVE (7.0 IP)
- Kai-Wei Teng: September 16 at TRI (7.0 IP)

Meanwhile, Eugene's bullpen has gone an absurd 45-9 with a 3.78 ERA and 673 K's in 519.2 innings pitched. No other team in the Minor Leagues has fewer than 13 bullpen losses (Portland Sea Dogs). Eugene's 695 bullpen K's ranks 2nd in all of High-A while its 3.78 ERA ranks 1st.

Murphy Named High-A West Pitcher of the Month

Emeralds RHP Ryan Murphy has been named the High-A West's Pitcher of the Month for the month of August. Murphy, a fifth-round pick (114th overall) in the 2020 MLB Draft out of Le Moyne College (NY), was called up to the

EMS BY THE NUMBERS

Overall	69-50
Home	33-19
Road	36-31
Neutral	0-0
Day	8-2
Night	61-48
Runs Scored	648
Runs Against	598
Run Differential	+50
Team AVG	.251
Team ERA	4.61
HR for/against	145/114
Strikeouts (pitching)	1,311
Strikeouts (hitting)	1,224
Current Streak	W3
Longest W Streak	W8
Longest L Streak	L5
Extra Innings	5-2
Shutouts	6-2
1-Run Games	22-11
May	15-9
June	17-8
July	11-16
August	15-12
September	10-5
Scoring First	44-21
Opponent Scores First	25-29
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	13-5
Wednesday	12-8
Thursday	10-10
Friday	11-10
Saturday	9-10
Sunday	14-5
vs. Everett	10-8
vs. Hillsboro	12-6
vs. Spokane	3-3
vs. Tri-City	5-1
vs. Vancouver	4-2
at Everett	4-8
at Hillsboro	9-9
at Spokane	9-3
at Tri-City	9-8
at Vancouver	4-2

Ems on July 29 after going 4-2 in 15 starts with Low-A San Jose, posting a 2.96 ERA and tallying an astounding 116 strikeouts in 76.0 innings of work.

He departed San Jose as the Low-A West leader in ERA (2.96), strikeouts (116) and innings pitched (76.0).

Upon his arrival in the Emerald Valley, the right-hander picked up right where he left off in San Jose. In five August starts with the Emeralds, Murphy went 2-2 with a 1.65 ERA and 40 strikeouts in 27.1 innings of work. His 40 K's in the month of August ranked first in all of High-A.

As of the time of the announcement (August 3), Murphy led all of Minor League Baseball in strikeouts this season (156). Murphy is the second Emeralds arm to have earned the monthly honor from Minor League Baseball. RHP Caleb Kilian, now with the Chicago Cubs organization after being traded from the San Francisco Giants as part of the Kris Bryant deal, was named the High-A West Pitcher of the Month in May after leading the league in wins (3), strikeouts (32), opponent's average (.122), and WHIP (0.46) while ranking third in ERA (1.25).

Luciano, Marte Selected 1-2 In Dominican Winter League Draft

Eugene's Marco Luciano and Everett's Noeivi Marte were selected as the 1st and 2nd overall picks in Wednesday's LIDOM (Dominican Winter League) Draft. Luciano was selected 1st overall by Estrellas Orientales while Noeivi Marte was selected 2nd overall by Gigantes del Cibao. In the last 20 years, there have been only five other Giants prospects selected in the six-team first round: Merkin Valdez (2003), Angel Villalona (2008, also first overall), Emmanuel Burriss (2008), Francisco Peguero (2009), and Miguel Gomez (2016). Felix Peguero, a San Francisco Giants international scout, is the GM of Estrellas.

Updated MLB Pipeline Prospect Rankings

MLB Pipeline unveiled their updated top prospect rankings and Emeralds SS Marco Luciano checks in as the #5 ranked prospect in all of baseball (previously was #6). In addition, MLB Pipeline's updated prospect rankings see 8 current Emeralds crack the Top 30 Giants prospects:

- #1 SS Marco Luciano
- #9 OF Jairo Pomares
- #11 LHP Seth Corry

- #18 C Ricardo Genoves
- #21 RHP Ryan Murphy
- #27 RHP Kai-Wei Teng
- #28 RHP Blake Rivero
- #30 UTL Brett Auerbach

More talent could be on the way over the final month of the season, too. Low-A San Jose boasts 9 of San Francisco's Top 30 prospects per MLB Pipeline's updated rankings: #3 OF Luis Matos, #5 LHP Kyle Harrison, #6 OF Hunter Bishop, #8 C Patrick Bailey, #14 3B/1B Luis Toribio, #16 LHP Nick Swiney, #17 3B Casey Schmitt, #23 RHP Prelander Berroa, and #25 RHP Carson Ragsdale.

Marte Called Up To Majors

A 2021 Emerald has already made his debut in The Show. RHP Jose Marte was called up from the Triple-A Salt Lake Bees to the Los Angeles Angels on August 20 and made his MLB debut that very same day, firing 2.0 IP with 1 H, 0 R, 0 BB and 4 K against the Cleveland Indians (Marte was placed on the IL on August 22). Marte started the season with the Emeralds and was Eugene's first promotion to Double-A after going 3-for-3 in saves with 14 K's in just 6.1 IP. Marte was dealt to the Angels at the trade deadline in the Tony Watson deal.

Marco Moves Up To High-A

On August 4, the Emeralds added one of baseball's top prospects to the active roster, SS Marco Luciano. Luciano, a 19-year-old phenom that is widely considered one of the top prospects in all of baseball, gets the call up to High-A Eugene after setting the Low-A West ablaze through the first two-thirds of the season. The Dominican Republic native exits San Jose as the Low-A West home run leader (19) while also ranking second in total bases (148), third in extra-base hits (35), third in RBIs (57), fourth in slugging (.544), and sixth in OPS (.930). With numbers like that, Luciano has been a key reason why the San Jose Giants have been one of the best offensive powers in all of Low-A since the start of the season as they ranked second in all of Low-A in team batting average (.271), second in home runs (101), third in slugging (.457), third in OPS (.805), and sixth in runs scored (484). Per Baseball America's midseason prospect rankings, Luciano checks in as the 7th-ranked prospect in all of baseball.

HIGH-A WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB	RF	RA
Eugene	69	50	.580	--	648	598
Spokane	67	49	.578	0.5	638	584
Everett	61	56	.521	7.0	766	626
Hillsboro	52	60	.464	13.5	510	550
Vancouver	55	64	.462	14.0	637	677
Tri-City	43	68	.387	22.0	427	591

Pomares Called Up To High-A Eugene

Outfielder Jairo Pomares was officially called up to High-A Eugene from Low-A San Jose on Tuesday, August 17. Just 21-years-old and hailing from Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, the left-handed hitting Pomares had been on a tear of late in Low-A San Jose, batting .423 in the month of August with 5 doubles, 3 HRs, 10 RBIs and an OPS of 1.188. On the season, Pomares is slashing .372/.429/.693 with 14 HRs, 44 RBIs and an insane 1.122 OPS over 51 games played. Per Baseball America's recently updated midseason prospect rankings, Pomares checks in as the eighth-ranked prospect in the San Francisco Giants system, having showcased, "the most power of his short career with San Jose, all without a sacrifice to his hittability or on-base skills." Pomares joins an Emeralds offense that since the start of July ranks in the top ten in all of High-A in numerous offensive categories including batting average (.263 | 6th), runs (249 | 4th), hits (373 | 3rd), home runs (65 | 5th), on-base percentage (.343 | 7th), slugging (.473 | 5th), and OPS (.815 | 5th). Pomares is the ninth player currently on High-A Eugene's active roster that has been called up from Low-A San Jose to High-A Eugene this season, following C Brett Auerbach, C Robert Emery, C Ricardo Genoves, SS Marco Luciano, RHP Ryan Murphy, RHP Austin Reich, OF Armani Smith, and LHP Chris Wright.

TODAY'S PROBABLE STARTERS

#14 Seth Corry (RHP)

Height: 6'2 Weight: 195 lbs Acquired: Round 3, 96th (2017)

Hometown: Alpine, UT School: Lone Peak HS (UT)

Born: November 3, 1998 (23)

fifth) and opponent average (.171, third). The Giants didn't bring their young pitchers to their alternate site last summer, so he worked out at home before reporting to instructional league. Corry has three solid or better offerings, highlighted by an upper-70s curveball with downer action that he often commands better than his fastball. His heater usually operates in the low 90s and tops out at 96 mph with arm-side run, though he worked at 93-95 in shorter stints during instructional league. He made significant improvements with his changeup in 2019, which helped him do a better job of keeping right-handers in check. Corry finished strong in 2019 once he developed a better and more consistent tempo in his delivery, reducing his walk rate to 2.6 per nine innings in the second half from 6.2 earlier in his career. He does throw with some effort but has the athleticism to make it work. He elicits comparisons to a young Matt Moore, who like Corry repeated Rookie ball and needed time to learn to harness his stuff." Per FanGraphs, "Corry was a pretty raw fastball/curveball high school prospect whose changeup improved throughout the last two seasons, which is especially relevant because that pitch's movement pairs better with his fastball than the curve. Armed with that change, he dominated Low-A, striking out 172 hitters in 122 innings. He's a fairly stiff, short strider and often has scattershot fastball control - he walked a batter every other inning last year - so there's significant relief risk here. We're not inclined to project on Corry's control enough to consider him a starter, but we like him as a bat-missing, multi-inning reliever who ends up throwing 90 or so innings."

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
3	3	5.99	19	19	0	0	0	0	67.2	53	50	45	4	15	63	0	100	.226	10

PITCHES: 4-Seam Fastball, 2-Seam Fastball, Curveball, Changeup

BIO: #11 ranked prospect in the San Francisco Giants system per MLB.com. Per MLB.com: "An all-state safety as a Utah prepster, Corry tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his knee playing football as a junior but rebounded in 2017 to become the state's best high school prospect since Mark Pawelek was a Cubs first-rounder in 2005. Signed for a well-over-slot \$1 million as a third-rounder, Corry broke out in the second half of 2019 and won low Class A South Atlantic League pitcher of the year honors after leading the circuit in ERA (1.76, second in the Minors), strikeouts (172, fourth), strikeout rate (12.6 per nine innings, fifth), whiff rate (34 percent,

#27 Helcris Olivarez (LHP)

Height: 6'2 Weight: 192 lbs Acquired: International FA. (8/12/16)

Hometown: San Francisco de Macoris, Dominican Republic

Born: August 8, 2000 (21)

side. He consistently sat 95-97 mph at the alternate site and instructs in 2020, complementing it with good feel for spinning a power curve, which shows glimpses of being a plus pitch and he continues to work on his changeup, which does show good action at times. More than anything, Olivarez needs to work on gaining more consistency, especially in repeating his delivery in a controlled way. He's generally around the strike zone, but he can get sped up, leading to a loss in command. The Rockies love his work ethic and baseball IQ, giving more confidence he'll be able to reach what appears to be a very high ceiling." Via Baseball America: "Via Fan Graphs: "We've learned the hard way that graceful deliveries do not always foreshadow improvement to control and command, so we're not totally sold that Olivarez will develop cogent strike-throwing ability even though his mechanics are silky smooth. He does have tremendous stuff for his age, already sitting in the mid-90s early during his starts and flashing a plus curveball. There's arguably too much velocity separation between the heater and curveball for the latter to be effective right now, but it has bat-missing depth and shape. Similar to his presently poor feel for location, Olivarez lacks changeup feel. Many things - holding the velo deep into games, mechanical consistency, a sharper curveball, a much better changeup - need to progress for Olivarez to attain what appears to be massive potential when you see his arm strength, frame, and proclivity for spin." Among all Minor Leaguers, Olivarez has issued the 4th-most walks (68) and hit the 4th-most batters (21).

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
4	9	6.05	22	21	0	0	0	0	99.2	89	74	67	10	21	68	0	112	.248	5

PITCHES: 4-Seam Fastball, Curveball, Changeup

Notes: Via MLB.com: "The Rockies gave eight players bonuses of six figures or higher during the 2016-17. Some are no longer with the organization and none are on the Rockies' Top 30. But Olivarez, who got just \$77,000 in August of 2016, has as big of an arrow next to his name as any pitching prospect in the organization in some time. Though he's yet to pitch above a rookie-ball level, the left-hander did impress as the youngest player at the team's alternate site in 2020, showing enough to get added to the 40-man roster this offseason. At 6-foot-3 and around 200 pounds, Olivarez has the prototypical pitcher's body teams covet, especially coming from the left

UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
Wednesday, September 22	6:30pm PST	@ Spokane Indians	RHP Conner Nurse	RHP Chris McMahon
Thursday, September 23	6:30pm PST	@ Spokane Indians	RHP Kai-Wei Teng	RHP XXXXXX
Friday, Sept. 24 (if necessary)	6:30pm PST	@ Spokane Indians	TBD	TBD
Saturday, Sept. 25 (if necessary)	1:05pm PST	@ Spokane Indians	TBD	TBD