



GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

Game #65 | July 18, 2021 | Avista Stadium | Spokane, WA

Eugene Emeralds (37-27) at Spokane Indians (30-35)

RHP Aaron Phillips (3-5, 6.59 ERA) vs. LHP Helcris Olivarez (2-8, 5.49 ERA)

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LAST TIME OUT

A homer-fueled and ejection-filled game went the Emeralds way on Saturday in what was one of the wildest games of the season, a 10-9 victory for the Ems. It was Eugene's 11th consecutive win in a one-run game, moving them to 11-1 in one-run games this season. Eugene did all of their offensive damage in two innings, scoring four runs in the second and adding six more in the third. Brett Auerbach, Tyler Fitzgerald, and Ricardo Genoves each homered for Eugene. Eugene held on in the ninth thanks to a gutsy performance by undrafted free agent Austin Reich who picked up a three-inning save and stranded the winning run on second base to see Eugene win their third game of the series and set up a chance for Eugene to win tonight. Tyler Fitzgerald's homer tied him with Will Wilson, who is now in Double-A, for the most by an Emerald this season (10). Travis Perry earned his 6th win of the season, tying him with Spokane's Chris McMahon for the most in the league.

TONIGHT'S STORYLINES

On the mound, it's a rematch of the series opener as Eugene sends right-handed changeup specialist Aaron Phillips to the mound while the Indians will counter with left-handed flamethrower Helcris Olivarez. Neither pitcher had their best stuff on Tuesday with Phillips going just 3.1 IP with 7 H, 3 ER, 2 BB and 1 K while Olivarez went 5.0 with 4 H, 4 R, 3 ER, 5 BB and 6 K's. Eugene enters the day aiming to keep pace with first place Everett after the Frogs eked out a walk-off win over the Tri-City Dust Devils last night. Heath Quinn will get his first off day of the series after what has been a magical last 5 days where he slashed .500/.591/.1167 with a 1.758 OPS, 4 HRs, and 12 RBIs.

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.

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 13-25 with a 5.95 ERA. Meanwhile, Eugene's bullpen has gone an absurd 24-2 with a 4.29 ERA and 387 K's in 294.0 innings pitched. No other team in the Minor Leagues has fewer than 5 bullpen losses (Charleston RiverDogs). Eugene's 387 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 26.0 innings pitched this season between Low-A San Jose and High-A Eugene, Wright has struck out an astounding 49 batters while going 9-for-9 in save opportunities.

Strikeout Savants

Through 65 games, the Eugene pitching staff leads the High-A West in strikeouts (706). Their 706 collective strikeouts are 19 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 687). But it doesn't stop there... the Emeralds ranked 3rd in all of High-A, too, trailing only the Hudson Valley Renegades (NYY) who have 730 and the Hickory Crawdads (TEX) who have 708. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 706 K's rank 8th. Coincidentally, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A) lead all of Minor League Baseball with 809 K's. Entering Wednesday night, San Jose's 800 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 11-1 in one-run games.

The Clutch (E)Jenge

Eugene has been one of the best teams hitting with two outs in all of High-A. Eugene ranks 2nd in AVG (.258), 3rd in runs (163), 2nd in hits (182), 2nd on OB% (.361) and 3rd in OPS (.799) 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), OB% (.411), SLG (.419), and OPS (.931) while ranking 2nd in runs scored (42) in late/close situations.

The pitching staff has been just as good, too. In late/close situations, the Eugene ranks 4th in Minor League Baseball in ERA (2.70) and opponent's average (.167).

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.

- Low-A San Jose entered this week's series with the Modesto Nuts with just a 1.0 game cushion in the standings. That has since ballooned up to 6.0 games after four straight dominant performances by the Giants to open the series, followed by a come-from-behind, one-run win last night. San Jose has outscored Modesto 51-13 so far in the series and won each of the first four games game by at least 7 runs. Former Emerald Patrick Bailey hit the go-ahead homer in last night's 5-4 win for San Jose.

- Double-A Richmond has won 10 of their last 14 games. They are tied for third place in the six-team Double-A Northeast Southwest Division, 2.5 games behind first-place Akron. Over the last 11 games since July 6, the Flying Squirrels have hit 19 home runs, which is the most in the Double-A Northeast. Yesterday, 2021 Emeralds Diego Rincones (1), Simon Whiteman (2), and Will Wilson (1) each homered for Richmond.

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 (LL)
- #5 LHP Seth Corry
- #17 1B Logan Wyatt
- #18 RHP Kai-Wei Teng
- #28 C Ricardo Genoves

EMS BY THE NUMBERS

Overall	37-27
Home*	17-13
Road	20-14
Neutral	0-0
Day	3-1
Night	34-26
Runs Scored	353
Runs Against	350
Run Differential	+3
Team AVG	.241
Team ERA	5.09
HR for/against	72/63
Strikeouts (pitching)	706
Strikeouts (hitting)	625
Current Streak	W1
Longest W Streak	W8
Longest L Streak	L5
Extra Innings	2-1
Shutouts	2-1
1-Run Games	11-1
May	15-9
June	17-8
July	4-10
August	0-0
September	0-0
Scoring First	25-9
Opponent Scores First	12-18
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	9-1
Wednesday	6-4
Thursday	5-6
Friday	6-5
Saturday	5-6
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	8-3
at Tri-City	4-2
at Vancouver	4-2
Series Openers	10-1
Series Finales	6-4

Colorado Rockies Prospect Watch

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

- #3 1B Michael Toggia
- #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

Toggia Tees Off In Futures Game

"I'll be honest," Toggia said of the first pitch. "I was swinging no matter what." Toggia, 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 Toggia. "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." Toggia 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," Toggia said. "That really told me that: We're here. This is real." Of note, Toggia'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
- 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-

HIGH-A WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB	RF	RA
Everett	41	22	.651	–	449	275
Eugene	37	27	.587	4.5	353	350
Vancouver	31	34	.477	11.0	321	339
Spokane	30	35	.462	12.0	315	333
Hillsboro	28	35	.444	13.0	269	311
Tri-City	25	39	.391	16.5	255	354

off HR vs. Columbia in bottom of 9th.

TODAY'S PROBABLE STARTERS

#49 Aaron Phillips (RHP)

Height: 6'5 Weight: 225 lbs Acquired: Round 9 (2017)
 Hometown: Rochester, NY School: St. Bonaventure
 Born: October 11, 1996 (24)

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

BIO: While at St. Bonaventure, excelled as the team's ace, earning 2017 Atlantic 10 Pitcher of the Year honors, 2017 ACBA/Rawlings Third Team All-American, and a 2017 John Olerud National Two-Way Player of the Year Finalist after going 9-2 with a 3.04 ERA and 90 K's in 100.2 innings wild batting .251 with 26 RBI and 18 stolen bases in 22 attempts. Highest draft pick in Bonnies

history. Father played college football at Ithaca. Attended Cheveland Hill High School where he set the school record for career strikeouts, single eason strikeouts and single game strikeouts. Per Baseball America's 2017 Draft Profile: "Phillips was a solid two-way player for St. Bonaventure, but his future is on the mound. He'll need to improve his command and control, and that could come naturally as he focuses exclusively on pitching. Phillips shows an upper 80s fastball and bumps 92 mph. His offspeed stuff is below-average at present and will need refinement." First pro season (2017), Phillips pitched exclusively out of the bullpen (14 APPs for Salem-Keizer) but since has been almost exclusively a starter (45 APPS, 40 starts in 2018-19). Signed with the Giants for \$80,000 after being drafted.

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
3	5	6.59	9	9	0	0	0	0	42.1	62	36	31	2	4	18	0	28	.354	2

#27 Helcris Olivarez (LHP)

Height: 6'3 Weight: 220 lbs Acquired: International FA (2016)
 Hometown: San Pedro de Macoris, DR School: N/A
 Born: August 8, 2000 (20)

PITCHES: Fastball, Curveball, Changeup

Notes: #7 prospect in Colorado Rockies system, per MLB.com. Per 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 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."

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
2	8	5.49	13	13	0	0	0	0	60.2	55	42	37	6	13	39	0	67	.249	9

UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
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
Saturday, July 24	7:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	RHP Aaron Phillips	TBD
Sunday, July 25	5:05pm PST	Hillsboro Hops	RHP Conner Nurse	TBD