



GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

Game #83 | August 7, 2021 | PK Park | Eugene, OR

Eugene Emeralds (48-34) at Tri-City Dust Devils (31-51)

LHP Jake Dahlberg (0-1, 10.13 ERA) vs. RHP Robinson Pina (2-5, 4.66 ERA)

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LAST TIME OUT

That escalated quickly. The Emeralds drubbed the Dust Devils on Friday night, plating TWENTY runs in what was a 20-2 victory. Eugene has dominated the series thus far, winning all four games to start the series while outscoring the Dust Devils 46-10. Eugene's Tyler Fitzgerald hit for the cycle on Friday night, and he needed only five innings to do so as he finished it off with a homer in the fifth inning. Marco Luciano hit his first High-A homer in just his second game with the Emeralds, and Tyler Flores also left the yard on a monster 400+ foot blast that rocketed off his bat at 109mph and ultimately landed on the far side of the player development facility in right. Conner Nurse earned his second win of the season while firing 6.0 innings of one-run ball, just the fifth performance by an Emeralds starting pitcher this season that has gone 6.0 innings or more. Coupled with another loss by Everett last night, Eugene enters today just 3.5 games back of the first place Frogs.

TODAY'S STORYLINES

Left-hander Jake Dahlberg makes his PK Park debut today after being signed by the San Francisco Giants two weeks ago. Dahlberg made a pair of starts on the road last week with up-and-down results, showing the ability to strike batters out but still running into trouble at times against what was a potent Everett lineup. He'll face off against RHP Robinson Pina who is considered one of the top pitching prospects in the Los Angeles Angels system. After struggling in High-A to start the season, Pina was sent down to the Low-A Visalia Rawhide where Pina went 0-0 with a 1.19 ERA and 33 K's in 4 starts. Pina has seemed to turn the corner (sort of) since coming back going 1-2 with a 3.91 ERA and 38 Ks in five July starts with the Dust Devils.

QUICK HITS

Ryan Heads To Richmond

Emeralds pitcher Ryan Walker has been promoted from the High-A West's Eugene Emeralds to the Double-A Richmond Flying Squirrels. Walker joins the Richmond bullpen after a sensational three months in Eugene that saw him go 1-0 with a 3.25 ERA in 26 appearances, all out of the 'pen. Over 39.2 innings of work with the Emeralds this season, Walker tallied 52 strikeouts while issuing just 8 walks and held opposing batters to a .250 average. He departs the High-A West currently ranked sixth in appearances (26) this season, and he leads the Emeralds in that category as well. The side-arming Walker has continued to look as one of San Francisco's major steals from the 2018 MLB Draft after being selected in the 31st round out of Washington State. Over 67 career professional appearances, all out of the bullpen, Walker has gone 4-3 with a 3.19 ERA with 7 saves, 113 strikeouts and just 26 walks in 98.2 innings pitched. Walker is the eighth Emerald to be promoted to Double-A Richmond this season, joining RHP Caleb Kilian, RHP Jose Marte, RHP RJ Dabovich, INF Simon Whiteman, C Brandon Martorano, OF Diego Rincones, and SS Will Wilson.

Marco Moves Up To High-A

On Wednesday, 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 (18) 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 currently rank 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 (464). Per Baseball America's recently updated midseason prospect rankings, Luciano checks in as the seventh-ranked prospect in all of baseball.

Just Hitting Our Stride

Since the start of July, the Emeralds offense ranks in the top ten in all of High-A in numerous offensive categories including batting average (.268 | 4th), home runs (54 | 4th), runs scored (211 | 3rd), on-base percentage (.347 | 6th), slugging (.483 | 4th), and OPS (.830 | 4th).

Ems On The Move

With the trade deadline coming and going on Friday, both the Emeralds and AquaSox saw players from their 2021 team on the move to other organizations.

- RHP Caleb Kilian: the High-A West Pitcher of the Month is on his way to the Windy City as part of the package in return for Kris Bryant. Kilian and San Jose OF Alexander Canario will head to the Cubs. In four starts as an Emerald, Kilian went 3-0 with a 1.25 ERA and 33 K's before being promoted to Double-A Richmond where he has gone 3-2 with a 2.43 ERA in 11 starts.

- RHP Jose Marte: the flame-throwing right-hander was the first member of this

year's Emerald squad to be promoted to Double-A Richmond after going 3-for-3 in save opportunities with 14 K's in just 6.1 IP. Marte, RHP Ivan Armstrong, and LHP Sam Selman head to the Angels in exchange for LHP Tony Watson. While in Richmond, Marte went 2-0 in 19 relief appearances with one save and 36 K's in 22.2 IP.

Ems Add Minor League Strikeout Leader

Right-hander Ryan Murphy was promoted from the Low-A San Jose Giants to the High-A Eugene Emeralds on Thursday. Murphy, a 5th rounder (114th overall) in the 2020 draft out of Le Moyne (NY), ranked 1st in all of the Minor Leagues in strikeouts (116) at the time of his promotion. He joins the Ems after going 4-2 in 15 starts with Low-A San Jose with a 2.96 ERA and an astounding 116 strikeouts in 76.0 innings of work. The Poughkeepsie, New York native had been simply sensational in the month of July for San Jose, going 3-1 with a 1.74 ERA in five July starts while posting double-digit strikeouts in all five outings. He departs San Jose as the Low-A West leader in ERA (2.96), strikeouts (116) and innings pitched (76.0). Overall, San Jose has seen seven other players promoted to Eugene this season: OF Tyler Flores, LHP Chris Wright, OF Armani Smith, C Ricardo Genovés, C Robert Emery, INF/OF Brett Auerbach, and RHP Austin Reich.

Yovan, Kasser Come Home To PK Park

The boys are back in town. A pair of all-time Oregon Baseball greats - Kenyon Yovan and Kyle Kasser - will be back in PK Park this week playing for the Tri-City Dust Devils, the High-A Affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels. Yovan, who signed with the Angels earlier this summer after a storied career with the Oregon Ducks, made his pro debut just this past week in Hillsboro where he batted .385 (5-for-13) with two doubles and a homer. A native of nearby Beaverton, Yovan coincidentally made his debut in a series that saw fellow Westview High School alum Carson Kelly suit up for the Hops on a rehab assignment from the Arizona Diamondbacks. Yovan's incredible career with the Ducks culminated with him slashing .309/.407/.608 this past collegiate season while serving as one of the anchors in the heart of an Oregon lineup that helped the Ducks return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2015. Kasser, a 30th round selection in the 2018 MLB Draft, is currently in his third official pro season. Kasser has continued to do as a pro what he did throughout his collegiate career: hit. The Brea, California native is a career .302 hitter as a pro and has been a regular in the Dust Devils lineup since being signed by the Angels despite dealing with an injury earlier in the season. While with Oregon, Kasser was a four-year letterman and departed Eugene ranked 5th all time in Oregon history in hits (178). When his collegiate career came to a close, Kasser also ranked 5th all-time at Oregon in multi-hit games, 5th in walks, 6th in at-bats, 7th in runs scored, 8th in games started, and 10th in multi-RBI games.

Living On The Edge

After falling in extra innings to the 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 15-7 in one-run games this season, with every game last week between the Emeralds and Hillsboro Hops being decided by just one run.

EMS BY THE NUMBERS

Overall	48-34
Home*	24-16
Road	24-18
Neutral	0-0
Day	3-2
Night	45-32
Runs Scored	481
Runs Against	441
Run Differential	+40
Team AVG	.245
Team ERA	4.95
HR for/against	104/82
Strikeouts (pitching)	876
Strikeouts (hitting)	836
Current Streak	W4
Longest W Streak	W8
Longest L Streak	L5
Extra Innings	4-1
Shutouts	4-1
1-Run Games	15-7
May	15-9
June	17-8
July	11-16
August	4-1
September	0-0
Scoring First	32-13
Opponent Scores First	16-21
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	10-3
Wednesday	9-5
Thursday	8-6
Friday	8-6
Saturday	5-8
Sunday	8-4
vs. Everett	1-5
vs. Hillsboro*	12-6
vs. Spokane	3-3
vs. Tri-City	4-0
vs. Vancouver	4-2
at Everett	4-8
at Hillsboro	3-3
at Spokane	9-3
at Tri-City	4-2
at Vancouver	4-2
Series Openers	11-2
Series Finales	8-5

Tale Of Two Pitching Staffs

Collectively, Eugene starting pitchers are 17-30 with a 6.09 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 FIVE 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)
- Conner Nurse: August 6 vs. TRI (6.0 IP)

Meanwhile, Eugene's bullpen has gone an absurd 31-4 with a 3.88 ERA and 481 K's in 371.1 innings pitched. No other team in the Minor Leagues has fewer than 8 bullpen losses (Tampa Tarpons, Charleston RiverDogs). Eugene's 473 bullpen K's rank 3rd in all of High-A.

Strikeout Savants

Through 82 games, the Eugene pitching staff leads the High-A West in strikeouts (876). Their 876 collective strikeouts are 14 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 862), and the Ems rank 5th in all of High-A, too. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 876 K's rank 8th. Coincidentally, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A) lead all of Minor League Baseball with 1,005 K's. Entering today, San Jose's 1,005 K's are 97 more than the next closest team (Somerset Patriots | AA Northeast | NYY).

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 (.256), 3rd in runs (210), 2nd in hits (232), 2nd in OBP% (.357), 3rd in SLG (.444) and 3rd in OPS (.801) when hitting with two outs. It doesn't stop there, though. Eugene has come up big in late/close situations (definition below). Eugene ranks 4th all of High-A in AVG (.269), 4th in runs scored (53), 2nd in OBP% (.401), 2nd in SLG (.486), and 2nd in OPS (.888) 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 (2.90) and 1st in opponent's average (.182).

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.

SF Giants Prospect Watch

Per MLB.com's pre-season prospect rankings, the Emeralds boast 4 of San Francisco's top 30 prospects:

- #1 SS Marco Luciano
- #5 LHP Seth Corry (Developmental List)
- #18 RHP Kai-Wei Teng
- #28 C Ricardo Genoves

HIGH-A WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB	RF	RA
Everett	51	30	.630	-	562	380
Eugene	48	34	.585	3.5	481	441
Spokane	41	41	.500	10.5	436	420
Hillsboro	37	44	.457	14.0	349	384
Vancouver	37	45	.451	14.5	402	451
Tri-City	31	51	.378	20.5	319	473

Los Angeles Angels Prospect Watch

The Dust Devils boast 4 of the Los Angeles Angels' top 30 prospects per MLB.com's pre-season rankings:

- #3 OF Jordyn Adams
- #9 LHP Hector Yan
- #12 SS Livian Soto
- #15 RHP Robinson Pina

TODAY'S PROBABLE STARTERS

#8 Jake Dahlberg (LHP)

Height: 6'0 Weight: 205 lbs Acquired: Free Agent (7/24/21)
 Hometown: Vancouver, WA School: Chicago - Illinois
 Born: December 1, 1993 (27)

by the St. Louis Cardinals in the 21st round of the 2017 MLB Draft out of Illinois-Chicago. Went 7-5 with a 3.12 ERA in 35 career appearances (15 starts) over two seasons in affiliated ball. Was released on March 28 of 2019 despite going a combined 5-5 with a 2.50 ERA in 16 APPs (15 starts) during his final season in 2018, splitting time between the State College Spikes (Short-Season A | New York Penn League) and the Peoria Chiefs (Low-A | Midwest League). Prides himself on attacking the strike zone, as evidenced by his 11 walks issued in 62.0 innings of work this season with Chicago. American Association Pitcher of the Week on July 6 after firing a complete game shutout on July 30 vs. the Milwaukee Milkmen, then backing that up with a 6.0 inning shutout performance against the SouthShore RailCats, a team that Dahlberg's current pitching coach for the Emeralds, Alain Quijano, coincidentally previously worked for in the same capacity. Dahlberg started the season as a bullpen arm for the Dogs but succeeded as transitioned back to a starter. A University of Illinois Chicago alum, he is the only pitcher to earn two Horizon League Pitcher of the Year awards. UIC is the alma mater of Curtis Granderson.

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

BIO: Signed on July 23 of this year from the Chicago Dogs of the American Association. While with Chicago, went 6-2 with a 3.05 ERA and 76 K's with 11 BB over 62.0 IP in 15 APPs (9 starts). His 3.04 ERA ranked 3rd in the American Association upon his signing. Posted a 0.98 WHIP and help opposing hitters to a .214 average. Fifth member of the Chicago Dogs to have their contract purchased by a Major League club this season.

Spend three seasons with Chicago (2019-21) where he went 19-12 with a 4.36 ERA, 221 K's and 58 BB in 231.0 IP over 47 APPs (37 starts). Drafted on attacking the strike zone, as evidenced by his 11 walks issued in 62.0 innings of work this season with Chicago. American Association Pitcher of the Week on July 6 after firing a complete game shutout on July 30 vs. the Milwaukee Milkmen, then backing that up with a 6.0 inning shutout performance against the SouthShore RailCats, a team that Dahlberg's current pitching coach for the Emeralds, Alain Quijano, coincidentally previously worked for in the same capacity. Dahlberg started the season as a bullpen arm for the Dogs but succeeded as transitioned back to a starter. A University of Illinois Chicago alum, he is the only pitcher to earn two Horizon League Pitcher of the Year awards. UIC is the alma mater of Curtis Granderson.

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
0	1	10.13	2	2	0	0	0	0	8.0	13	9	9	3	1	1	0	13	.361	0

#13 Robinson Pina (RHP)

Height: 6'4 Weight: 180 lbs Acquired: International FA (2017)
 Hometown: San Cristobal, Dominican Republic School: N/A
 Born: November 26, 1998 (22)

16 prospect for the Angels. Selected to play in the MWL ASG in 2019. Had the 3rd most strikeouts in the MWL in 2019. Per MLB.com: The Angels weren't able to spend more than \$300,000 on any player during the 2016-17 international signing period, the second of two years they were so hampered for going over their 2014-15 bonus pool. Looking for bargains, they were able to find the projectable 18-year-old Pina for just \$50,000 in February 2017. He made his United States debut in 2018, pitching mostly in relief, before making a very successful move to full-season ball and the rotation in 2019, striking out 12.2 per nine in the process. As Pina has added strength to his 6-foot-4 frame, he's thrown gradually harder, averaging right around 93 mph and touching the mid-90s at times throughout his breakout in 2019 with good life and high spin rates up in the zone. He throws a hard curve with a good, sharp break, and while he can still gain consistency with it, it's worked as a strikeout pitch. His splitter gives him an effective offspeed offering and a third at-least average pitch in his arsenal. With a three-pitch mix and a strong, projectable frame, Pina has all the components of a big league starter. He does have to find more consistency in both finding the strike zone (career 4.6 BB/9 rate) and commanding his stuff in the zone. His stuff might tick up more in shorter relief stints, but the Angels aren't ready to stop developing him as a starter just yet."

PITCHES: Fastball, Curveball, Splitter

Notes: 15th ranked prospect in Angels system per MLB.com. Started the 2021 season with Tri-City before being demoted to Low-A Inland Empire. Struggled with command during his first stint with the Dust Devils, walking 24 batters in 15 innings. Had 4 strong starts with Inland Empire before being promoted back up to High-A. He was named the Low-A West Pitcher of the Month for June. He returned to the Dust Devils when Davis Daniel

(who was named the High-A West Pitcher of the Month for June) was promoted to Double-A Rocket city. Currently ranked by MLB.com as the No. 16 prospect for the Angels. Selected to play in the MWL ASG in 2019. Had the 3rd most strikeouts in the MWL in 2019. Per MLB.com: The Angels weren't able to spend more than \$300,000 on any player during the 2016-17 international signing period, the second of two years they were so hampered for going over their 2014-15 bonus pool. Looking for bargains, they were able to find the projectable 18-year-old Pina for just \$50,000 in February 2017. He made his United States debut in 2018, pitching mostly in relief, before making a very successful move to full-season ball and the rotation in 2019, striking out 12.2 per nine in the process. As Pina has added strength to his 6-foot-4 frame, he's thrown gradually harder, averaging right around 93 mph and touching the mid-90s at times throughout his breakout in 2019 with good life and high spin rates up in the zone. He throws a hard curve with a good, sharp break, and while he can still gain consistency with it, it's worked as a strikeout pitch. His splitter gives him an effective offspeed offering and a third at-least average pitch in his arsenal. With a three-pitch mix and a strong, projectable frame, Pina has all the components of a big league starter. He does have to find more consistency in both finding the strike zone (career 4.6 BB/9 rate) and commanding his stuff in the zone. His stuff might tick up more in shorter relief stints, but the Angels aren't ready to stop developing him as a starter just yet."

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
2	5	4.66	11	11	0	0	0	0	46.1	28	25	24	3	4	39	0	66	.176	4

UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
Sunday, August 8	5:05pm PST	Tri-City Dust Devils	RHP Ryan Murphy	RHP Taylor Ahearn
Tuesday, August 10	7:05pm PST	@ Hillsboro Hops	RHP Kai-Wei Teng	TBD
Wednesday, August 11	7:05pm PST	@ Hillsboro Hops	RHP Aaron Phillips	TBD
Thursday, August 12	7:05pm PST	@ Hillsboro Hops	RHP Conner Nurse	TBD
Friday, August 13	7:05pm PST	@ Hillsboro Hops	LHP Jake Dahlberg	TBD
Saturday, August 14	7:05pm PST	@ Hillsboro Hops	RHP Ryan Murphy	TBD