### THE OFFICIAL GAME DAY PUBLICATION OF THE AUGUSTA GREENLACKETS VOL. 2023 EDITION 11 PHOTO GREENLACKETS

PRESENTED BY

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

SINGLE-A AFFILIATE

# EARN MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Over \$1 MILLION has been donated to our local schools. Scan the QR Code to Learn More and Find Your School.

YELLONJACKET CARDHOLDER



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#### SRPFCU.org

Membership required and must qualify for a checking account. Please visit srpfcu.org for membership eligibility. Fees may apply.





# **HELLO 2024!**

### PLAN HOW YOU'LL SPEND Your 2024 at SRP Park!

- FULL, HALF OR 20-GAME SEASON TICKET PLAN
- GROUP OUTINGS WITH 20+ OF YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY
  JR. JACKETS KIDS CLUB (12 YEARS & UNDER)

SCAN THE QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR EACH OPTION!



SEASON TICKETS



GROUP OUTINGS



JR. JACKETS Kids Club

# AUTOG

4 GREENJ ACKETSBASE

# RAPHS

GREENJ KCKETSBASEBALL.COM

Jackets

# CASHLESS

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#### **ACCEPTED PAYMENTS:**

- CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS
- APPLE, GOOGLE & SAMSUNG PAY
- GREENJACKETS GIFT CARDS
- TICKET SCANNED LOADED VALUE

TO CONVERT CASH, PLEASE VISIT GUEST SERVICES OR THE ADVANCE TICKET WINDOW INSIDE THE HIVE PRO SHOP TO EXCHANGE CASH FOR LOADED VALUE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CASHLESS POLICY, VISIT

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#### BALLPARK GUIDE B, C, 68 J (E) A F $\langle \mathbf{X} \rangle$ L w

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A - SRP PARK GUEST SERVICES **B - SRP VIP LOGE BOX C-SRP PREMIER BOX SECTION** 

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- D THE 19TH HOLE
- E THE HIVE PRO SHOP

- F TITO'S TAPS
- **G DESSERT CART**
- H THE GRILL CART
- I LAWN ACE LOUNGE
- J ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
- **K THE MIRACLE DEALER'S LOUNGE**
- L SOUTH STAR FIRST AID STATION
- **M BACK NINE GRILL**
- N BUDWEISER BACK NINE BAR & GRILL

0 - AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY HEALTH KIDS' ZONE

- **P TAXSLAYER TERRACE**
- **0 COORS CORNER FRONT NINE CHILL ZONE**
- **R** E-Z-GO PICNIC PATIO
- S SWEETWATER BEER GARDEN
- T BROKEN BAT BAR
- U MCGAVIN'S
- V THE KEGSTAND
- W WOW! CLUB
- X THE BEE'STRO
- 1-KONA ICE
- 2 DIPPIN' DOTS
- **3 SWEET & BOOZY ICE CREAM**

## CONCESSIONS MENU

### COORS CORNER FRONT MINE CHILLZONE

HOT DOG **CHILI CHEESE DOG** CHEESEBURGER NACHOS WITH CHEESE **CHILI CHEESE NACHOS BAVARIAN PRETZEL** CANDY POPCORN CRACKER JACKS ROASTED PEANUTS

BLUE MOON COORS COORS LIGHT MILLER LITE TERRAPIN HOPSECUTIONER LEINENKUGEL'S SUMMER SHANDY TRULY WHITE CLAW **BOTTLED WATER** BOTTLED SODA **BOTTLED POWERADE** 

#### 9 335

HOT DOG CHILI CHEESE DOG ALL-AMERICAN BURGER (2 PATTIES, BACON, CHEESE, SPECIAL SAUCE) CHEESEBURGER MEATBALL SANDWICH PULLED PORK SANDWICH CHICKEN TENDER BASKET NACHOS WITH CHEESE CHILL CHEFSE NACHOS LOADED NACHOS (PULLED PORK, COLE SLAW & BBQ SAUCE) STADIUM BRAT AUGGIE BURGER (PULLED PORK, BBO SAUGE CHEESE) BREAKFAST BURGER (BACON, EGG, CHEESE) BEYOND VEGGIE BURGER (CHEESE) POLISH SAUSAGE

CRAB RANGOON FRIES LOADED FRIES (PULLED PORK, BBQ SAUCE, CHEESE) GYRO FRIES (GYRO MEAT, FETA CHEESE, CUCUMBER SAUCE) CHICKEN BACON RANCH FRIES BUFFALO FRIES (CHICKEN, BUFFALO SAUCE, CHEESE, RANCH) CARNE ASADA FRIES **ITALIAN FRIES** FRIES CHILL CHEFSE FRIES ROASTED PEANUTS POPCORN CRACKER JACK CANDY

BUDWEISER **COCA-COLA** FOUNTAIN & BOTTLE DRINKS BUD LIGHT POWFRADE **BLUE MOON** WATER SHOCK TOP MICHELOB ULTRA MILLER LITE SWEETWATER 420 YUENGLING SAVANNAH RIVER BREWING NO JACKET REOUIRED MODFLO SAM ADAMS SEASONAL TRULY WHITFCI AW BUDLIGHT SELTZER BACKNINE CRILL

HOT DOG **CHILI & CHEESE DOG** CORN DOG CHEESEBURGER ALL-AMERICAN BURGER (2 PATTIES, BACON, CHEESE, SPECIAL SAUCE) MAURICE'S PULLED SMOKED PORK SANDWICH HOT HONEY CHICKEN SANDWICH AUGGIE DOG CHICKEN TENDER BASKET BEYOND BURGER KIDS MEAL (HOT DOG, CHIPS, TUM-E YUMMIES) HOUSTON'S ROASTED PEANUTS

PIZZA BY THE SLICE (CHEFSE, PEPPERONI) BOILED PEANUTS FRIES LOADED FRIES (PULLED PORK, CHEESE, BBQ SAUCE) NACHOS WITH CHEESE CHILI CHEESE NACHOS LOADED NACHOS (PULLED PORK, CHEESE, BBQ SAUCE) POPCORN CRACKER JACKS SOFT PRETZEL & CHEESE CANDY

MODELO POWERADE SHOCKTOP WATER COCA-COLA FOUNTAIN & BOTTLE DRINKS SAMUEL ADAMS MILLER LITE YUENGLING COORS LIGHT BUDWEISER BUD LIGHT BLUE MOON WHITECLAW TRULY BUDLIGHT SELTZER

HOT DOG CHILI CHEESE DOG CHEESEBURGER PULLED PORK SANDWICH **PIMENTO CHEESE SANDWICH** NACHOS WITH CHEESE CHILI CHEESE NACHOS LOADED NACHOS (PULLED PORK, BBQ SAUCE, CHEESE) **MAC & CHEESE BURRITO** TURKEY CLUB WRAP



WALKING TACO SOUTHERN WALKING TACO WALKING HOT CHEETOS LOADED POTATO CHIPS LOADED MAC & CHEESE ROASTED PEANUTS POPCORN CHEETO POPCORN CRACKER JACK CANDY

**COCA-COLA FOUNTAIN & BOTTLE DRINKS** POWERADE WATER BUD LIGHT BUD LIGHT SELTZER MILLER LITE SHOCK TOP SWEETWATER 420 TRULY YUFNGLING WHITECLAW

#### DESSERT CART

**FUNNEL CAKE FRIES GLAZED DONUT HOLES BELGIAN WAFFLE** FROZEN MINUTE MAID LEMONADE POPCORN CRACKER JACK HOUSTON'S ROASTED PEANUTS BOTTLED COCA-COLA PRODUCTS POWERADE WATER

WHITECLAW

BUDLIGHT SELTZER

TRULY

### HIB GRILL CAR

ALLIGATOR SAUSAGE **ITALIAN SAUSAGE** POLISH SAUSAGE STADIUM BRAT PHILLY CHEESESTEAK PHILLY CHEESESTEAK NACHOS **BUFFALO CHICKEN PHILLY BUFFALO CHICKEN DOG** HOT DOG

HOUSTON'S ROASTED PEANUTS BOTTLED COCA-COLA PRODUCTS POWERADE WATER BUD LIGHT MICHELOB ULTRA TRULY WHITE CLAW BUD LIGHT SELTZER

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ROASTED PEANUTS POPCORN BOTTLED COCA-COLA PRODUCTS POWERADE WATER ASSORTED BOTTLED BEERS

COLUMBIA CRAFT COMMON HOUSE ALE LO-FI RIVER WATCH BREWERY SCENIC OVERLOOK SAVANNAH RIVER SWEETWATER TERRAPIN

SWEETWATER 420 SWEETWATER BLUE SWEETWATER HAZY SWEETWATER IPA

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**BOLD ROCK HARD CIDER** 

MILLER LITE MICHELOB ULTRA SHOCK TOP

ASSORTED LIQUOR COORS LIGHT BLUE MOON MILLER LITE YEUNGLING

BROKENBARBAR

**NON-ALCOHOLIC FLAVORS** 

DOUBLE CHOCOLATEY CHIP CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM WITH CRUNCHY CHOCOLATE CHIPS

**COOKIES & SCREAM** VANILLA ICE CREAM WITH CRUNCHY CHOCOLATE COOKIES AND SMOOTH INDULGENT CREAM

**CRAZY CARAMEL VANILLA** VANILLA ICE CREAM AND SMOOTH CARAMELSWIRLS

SWEET STRAWBERRY MALLOW STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM WITH CREAMY MARSHMALLOW SWIRLS

ALCOHOLIC FLAVORS

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INFUSED WITH COCONUT RUM, CRISP TEOUILA, SWEET STRAWBERRY SWIRLS AND JUICY

CARRIF'S COSMO

INFUSED WITH SWEET-TART ORANGE VODKA AND CHEWY CRANBERRY PIECES IMIE SOME SOCO INFUSED WITH SOUTHERN COMFORT WHISKEY AND SWEET CARAMEL SWIRLS

PEANUT BUTTA WHISKEY

CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM INFUSED WITH DARK. SMOOTH WHISKEY AND CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER SWIRLS

INFUSED WITH COFFEE LIQUEUR, ESPRESSO VODKA AND HEATH BAR PIECES

THUNDERCUPS \* \$2 UP-CHARGE TO EXCHANGE FOR AN ALCOHOLIC ICE CREAM FLAVOR

**N.N.ORFO** 

COOKIES AND SCREAM ICE CREAM, OREO ICE CREAM COOKIE, OREO Cookies, Whipped Cream and Chocolate Drizzle

PEANUT BUTTER BLITZ Double chocolatey chip ice cream, peanut butter pie, WHIPPED CREAM, REESES PIECES AND CHOCOLATE DRIZZLE

CARAMEL APPLE PIE Crazy Caramel Vanilla ICE Cream, slice of Apple Pie, whipped Cream, graham cracker crumbs and caramel Drizzle

# THANK YOU PARTNERS!

#### 360 Painting of Augusta

A.B. Beverage Abbott Trailways Academy Sports + Outdoors ADP Aiken Technical College Artisanal Brewing Ventures ATC Development Augusta Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Augusta Ear, Nose, Throat & Allergy Augusta Regional Airport Augusta Sports Council Augusta Sportswear Augusta Technical College Augusta University Augusta University Health Azalea Outdoor **Bailey's Comfort Services Beasley Media Group Best Office Solutions Beverage South** Blanchard & Calhoun Body Armour / Powerade Bojangles

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Borden Pest Control Breakthru Beverages Bridgestone Brush and Roll Painting Busby's California Dreaming Carolina Ale House Chicken Salad Chick Cintas City of North Augusta Columbia Craft **Comfort Keepers** Commonhouse Aleworks Conceal Crowne Plaza North Augusta Dave & Buster's **Dippin** Dots Duraclean **Durty Gurl Mixers** Ellefson Transportation Group Episcopal Day School Fleet Feet Augusta Floyd and Green Gamble & Company Georgia 811 Georgia Army National Guard High Cotton Downtown



Hollywood Feed HTI (for Aurubis Richmond) **IBEW Local Union 1579** Ironwood Apartments Jani-King John Deere - Augusta **KAMO** Manufacturing Kendrick Paint and Body Kid to Kid Kona Ice Augusta Lawn Ace Leidos Logan's Roadhouse Manpower Medical College of Georgia Merry Maids Metro Courier Michael G. Hostilo, LLC Murphy Auto Group Musco National Wild Turkey Federation Nationwide Neighbor to Family North Augusta Chiropractic North Star Hospitality (Holiday Inn Express) Nothing Bundt Cakes Nuclear Workers Institute of America Peanut Processors Pedal Pub Augusta Pediatric Partners Petsch Respiratory Phoenix Printing Group Pollock Company Popeyes Premier Networx Putt Putt Fun Center **Quality Plus Services Quality Printing & Graphics** Reliable Equipment Rental

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### SALEM RED SOX ROSTER

#### MANAGER #4 LIAM CARROLL • PITCHING COACH #56 JASON BLANTON Hitting Coach #33 Nelson Paulino • Coach #29 Ozzie Chavez

# Pitchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB	Acq/Yr	Hometown
36 Brand, Jonathan	R/R	5'9"	200	2/20/00	8th/2022	Columbus, GA
11 Butler, Connor	L/L	6'0"	180	4/22/00	20th/2022	Biola Biola, CA
39 Cruz, Nathanael	R/R	6'2"	175	2/4/03	IFA/2019	Santo Domingo, DR
23 De La Rosa, Luis	R/R	6'1"	170	7/6/02	Trade/2021	Santo Domingo, DR
29 Dean, Noah	L/L	6'2"	185	3/10/01	5th/2022	Hackensack, NJ
21 Felix, Jhonny	S/R	6'0"	180	9/4/98	FA/2021	San Francisco de Macoris, DR
31 Jackson, Gabriel	R/R	6'2"	180	9/7/01	IFA/2018	Samana, DR
17 Monegro, Yordanny	R/R	6'4"	180	10/14/02	IFA/2020	Santo Domingo, DR
30 Nunez, Cristian	R/R	6'5"	210	10/22/02	IFA/2021	La Vega, DR
16 Paez, Jedixson	R/R	6'1"	170	1/17/04	IFA/2021	Tinaquillo, VZ
25 Perez, Railin	L/R	6'3"	185	9/2/01	IFA/2018	Santiago, DR
45 Ramirez, Jose	R/R	6'0"	142	3/28/01	IFA/2018	Santo Domingo, DR
41 Ramsey, Garrett	R/R	6'3"	194	10/29/99	16th/2022	Jackson, MS
**15 Rodriguez-Cruz, Elmer	L/R	6'3"	160	8/18/03	4th/2021	Trujillo Alto, PR
44 Soto, Elvis	R/R	6'0"	174	3/2/04	IFA/2022	Bani, DR
12 Talavera, Luis	R/R	6'3"	175	2/6/02	IFA/2018	Maracay, VZ
47 Valera, Michael	R/R	6'2"	175	2/12/99	IFA/2019	San Pedro de Macoris, DR
# Catchers	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB	Acq/Yr	Hometown
3 Garcia, Johanfran	R/R	5'10"	196	12/8/04	IFA/2022	Valencia, VZ
26 Lira, Enderso	R/R	6'1"	185	10/11/03	IFA/2021	San Felipe, VZ
13 Mejicano, Yorberto	R/R	5'11"	185	11/21/00	IFA/2019	Caracas, VZ
**18 Montero, Juan	R/R	5'11"	180	6/10/02	IFA/2020	Ponce, PR
37 Salazar, Johnfrank	R/R	6'1"	160	8/5/03	IFA/2019	Barcelona, Venezuela
# Infielders	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB	Acq/Yr	Hometown
1 Alcantara, Marvin	R/R	5'10"	157	11/2/04	IFA/2022	La Victoria, VZ
19 Feliz, Albert	R/R	6'2"	200	4/13/02	IFA/2018	Santo Domingo, DR
14 James, Lyonell	R/R	6'2"	165	10/14/02	IFA/2019	San Pedro de Macoris, DR
2 Ravelo, Luis	S/R	6'1"	187	11/5/03	IFA/2021	Santo Domingo, DR
6 Simon, Claudio	R/R	5'9"	170	12/9/01	1st/2021	La Romana, DR
# Outfielders	B/T	Ht	Wt	DOB	Acq/Yr	Hometown
22 Asigen, Albertson	R/R	5'10"	175	8/27/01	IFA/2019	Puerto Plata, DR
38 Hernandez, Alexis	R/R	6'0"	170	10/5/02	IFA/2019	Tinaco, VZ
28 Garcia, Jhostynxon	R/R	5'11"	163	12/11/02	IFA/2019	San Fernando de Apure, VZ
46 Yuten, Natanael	L/L	6'2"	143	10/9/04	IFA/2022	La Romana, DR









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# SCORECARD



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# SCORECARD

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## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES PHO

#### PHOTOS BY CSRA PHOTOGRAPHY



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### **AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS** ROSTER

#### **AS OF AUGUST 15, 2023**

MANAGER #20 CODY GABALLA • PITCHING COACH #28 WES MCGUIRE Hitting Coach #13 Connor Narron • Coach #19 Francisco Diaz

#	PITCHERS (17 + I)	NOTE	THROWS	НТ	WT	AGE	BORN	BIRTHPLACE
50	Zach Austin		R	6'2	190	22	7/17/01	Langhorne, PA
30	Lucas Braun		R	6'0	185	21	8/26/01	Santa Monica, CA
23	Chad Bryant		R	6'0	210	24	8/3/99	Thomasville, AL
33	Giomar Diaz		R	6'2	190	20	11/23/02	Bani, DR
40	Jason Franks	IL	R	6'3	200	24	1/23/99	Novato, CA
26	Riley Frey		L	6'1	185	21	4/19/02	Oshkosh, WI
8	Landon Harper		R	6'1	176	22	4/8/01	Meridian, MS
11	Elison Joseph		R	6'0	170	22	1/24/01	San Pedro de Macoris
4	Seth Keller		R	5'10	180	19	5/26/04	Richmond, VA
12	Jhancarlos Lara		R	6'3	190	20	1/15/03	San Cristobal, DR
48	Nolan Martinez		R	6'2	165	24	6/30/98	Culver City, CA
7	Owen Murphy		R	6'1	190	19	9/27/03	Chicago, IL
5	Estarlin Rodriguez	7	R	6'0	180	23	10/24/99	Puerto Plata, DR
55	Shay Schanaman		R	6'0	205	24	8/12/99	Hastings, NE
18	Adam Shoemaker		L	6'6	205	21	8/4/02	Cambridge, ON, CA
24	Samuel Strickland	1	L	6'2	218	24	3/26/99	Birmingham, AL
16	Luis Vargas		R	5'11	196	21	5/2/02	Esperanza, DR
22	Cory Wall		R	6'4	230	23	3/14/00	Roaring Brook, PA

# C/	ATCHERS (2)	NOTE	B/T	HT	WT	AGE	BORN	BIRTHPLACE
27 Da	awson Dimon		R/R	6'0	185	24	5/17/99	Lancaster, CA
15 Ja	acob Godman		R/R	6'2	200	23	5/7/2000	Las Vegas, NV

#	INFIELDERS (6)	NOTE	B/T	HT	WT	AGE	BORN	BIRTHPLACE
34	Drew Compton		S/R	6'2	213	22	3/25/01	Summit, NJ
25	Jose Dilone		L/R	5'10	165	22	10/09/00	La Vega, DR
2	E.J. Exposito		R/R	5'11	190	22	5/4/01	Brooklyn, NY
9	Cam Magee		L/R	6'1	190	21	6/01/02	Anaheim, CA
1	Ambioris Tavarez		R/R	5'11	168	19	11/12/03	San Cristobal, DR
54	Will Verdung III		R/R	6'2	200	20	6/8/03	Jackson, TN

#	OUTFIELDERS (5+1)	NOTE	B/T	HT	WT	AGE	BORN	BIRTHPLACE
30	Pier-Olivier Boucher		L/R	6'2	185	23	12/03/99	Levis, Quebec, CAN
14	Jair Casanova		R/R	6'0	170	19	11/14/03	Barquisimeto, VZ
26	Jeremy Celedonio	DL	R/R	6'1	183	21	12/26/01	Santo Domingo, DR
49	Tyler Collins		L/R	5'9	180	20	3/6/03	Dallas, TX
17	Jace Grady		S/R	5'11	182	22	5/25/01	Austin, TX
36	Kade Kern		R/R	6'0	200	21	9/18/01	Bryan, OH



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# THANK YOU MEMBERS

Kevin & Ana Mahoney Tariq Malveaux Adam Martin Scott Martin David Mathis Doug McCafferty **Toney McCallum** Ferchon McCurry Megan McDonald Lisa McGrew Joe & Jennifer McRoy James McVay Barbara Meeks Jan Menger Nate Mercer **Ruth Merrick** Donald Miller Dylan Miller Wayne Miller **Carol Mills** David Mills Andrew Mitchell Havanne Mixon Tara Moon Allen Moore Randy Moore Carlos Moran Gwen Morehead William Moretz John Mullins Jack & Amy Mulvihill Milledge Murray **Bill & Janice Mutimer** Pete Naomi 20 GREENJ CKETSBASEBALL.COM

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### HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU, MURPHY BY NATHAN STRAUSS

Owen Murphy walked off the mound at Carilion Clinic Field in Salem, Virginia with a smile on his face. Four days later, the smile would return as the Carolina League named him as their Player of the Week, Murphy's first league-wide honor. The first full professional season for Atlanta's 2022 first-round selection is drawing to a close, and the 19-year old Murphy is reflecting on the last six months.

Murphy, or "Murph" to his teammates and coaches, has been the subject of media attention since his commitment to Notre Dame as a student at Riverside-Brookfield High in the Chicago suburbs. Named the Perfect Game Two-Way Player of the Year in 2022, Murphy excelled on the mound and at the plate, hitting over .500 while also striking out two batters per inning.

As the possibility of being drafted mounted and conversations with scouts intensified, he knew he might have to make a choice. "Scouts told me I had a fifth round bat, but a second round arm," says Murphy with a laugh. Murphy had dominated for his high school team, while also playing nationally with the USA Under-18 team and the prestigious Rake City and Canes travel ball programs. The Braves ended up betting on his arm in the first round, taking him with their first-round pick.

The expectations, both internal and external, were high. After a dominant first month of the year, batters began to catch up. There have been growing pains this year for Murphy, as there often are with first-year professionals. "I didn't know what made me good," he said with a grin. "I thought my fastball was good because I threw it hard."

Murphy has long garnered praise for his intense competitiveness, but baseball is a long season and losses come just as frequently as wins. "It's beneficial to Owen to learn how to lose," ...

...noted manager Cody Gabella after a rough outing when borderline calls went against his starter, chasing Murphy from the game in the first inning. "It's part of the game, and the best players are just as good at handling the rough spots as they are at finding success."

Wes McGuire, Augusta's pitching coach, shared more on their strategy. "In high school, Owen was able to get by on his fastball, because it was that much better than anything anyone else had seen. A lot of what we've done this year is diversifying from that pitch and working on building up his other offerings." McGuire and Murphy frequently work individually, going over everything from pitching mechanics to mental strategies and even just tossing a Frisbee to stay loose.

Part of those growing pains were reflected in a handful of rough outings in the middle of the year. Murphy, still two full years younger than the average player in the Carolina League, struggled with confidence. "I started overthinking, and that led to overthrowing, and changing up things I normally do well," Murphy said. "But that's part of the process of figuring out where you want to be."

Murphy, often found listening to unreleased Mac Miller or deep in a book before his starts, had to learn to take the spins of baseball in stride. The youngster fanned 12 Delmarva Shorebirds in a late June outing, becoming the first GreenJacket since AJ Smith-Shaver to K a dozen; two weeks later, he was chased after walking the bases loaded and surrendering a grand slam. Still, Murphy entered the second half of the season leading Augusta in strikeouts and innings pitched, but also carrying the intangible benefits of learning through struggles.

Something seemed to click in Murphy's first August start, in which the Illinois native flashed a new-look curveball and fanned nine. One particular at-bat stood out, when Murphy flicked three straight curveballs (one at 66 miles an hour) to Jean Ramirez, a .300 hitter. With a 1-2 count, Murphy reared back and fired a fastball past the batter, nearly 30 miles an hour faster than the previous pitch to record the strikeout.

"That was pretty dang fun," chuckled Murphy. The day after a start is typically a recovery day for a pitcher, but Murphy volunteered for an autograph session with fans less than 24 hours later. As he signed autographs for kids and collectors alike and even posed with a fan with a GreenJackets jersey customized with Murphy's surname and number seven, his smile never wavered.

"It's more important to me to be a well-developed person off the field than whatever is happening out there," Owen says with a wave towards the diamond. "My whole purpose in this game is to grow it." Card collectors, whose presence around team buses and autograph sessions can occasionally commoditize prospects for their signatures, are never a hassle for him, nor are the myriad children who swarm the Augusta bullpen for pictures or free baseball.

Call it karma, or call it the fruits of his labors. His next start following the curveball showcase against Columbia, Murphy carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning in Salem. He gave up his first and only hit to Mikey Romero - whom Murphy knew from his showcase days and from the green room at the Draft, when Romero went four picks after him - in the bottom of the seventh. the Salem fans saluted Murphy with a round of applause as he exited the game after his eighth and final strikeout, a gesture of appreciation seldom seen for visiting players.

Murphy, initially frustrated at having to come out of the game, lifted his head and delivered a wry smile. Even in the bad times, the smile never faded. The best times are still to come.



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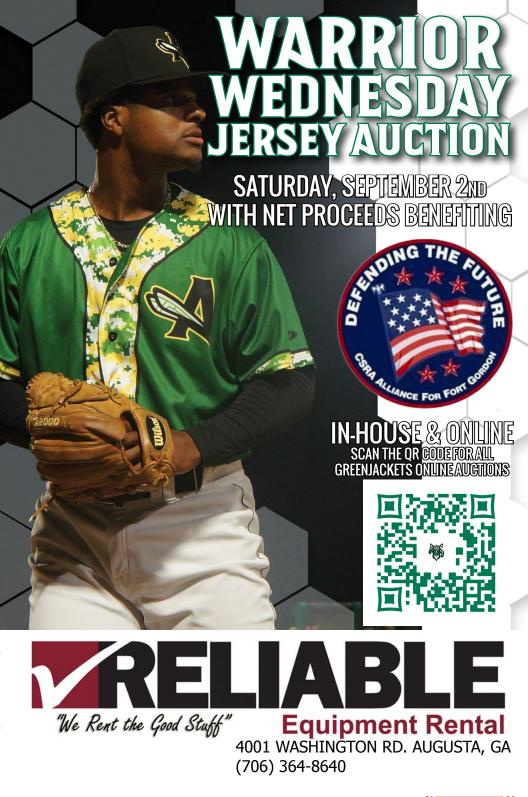
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