



# SALEM RIDGEYAKS

SINGLE-A AFFILIATE OF THE BOSTON RED SOX



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## **BeerMongers Hold Off GreenJackets for 8-7 Victory, Secure Back-to-Back Wins**

**SALEM, Va.** – The Salem BeerMongers (40-52, 15-12) held off a late rally from the Augusta GreenJackets (50-43, 15-12) to earn an 8-7 victory Thursday night at Carilion Clinic Field, securing back-to-back wins and holding on to first place in the Carolina League North Division.

After falling behind 1-0 in the third inning, Salem answered immediately. Franklin Primera roped an RBI double to tie the game before Kleyver Salazar followed with an RBI single to give the BeerMongers a 2-1 advantage.

Augusta briefly reclaimed the lead with a two-run fifth, but Salem responded with its biggest inning of the night. Salazar lined a one-out double, Avinson Pinto drove in another with a fielder's choice, and D'Angelo Ortiz capped the rally with a two-run single to put the BeerMongers back in front, 5-3.

The offense kept rolling in the sixth. After Augusta cut the deficit to one, Salazar crushed a two-run homer to left field, his ninth of the season, and second in as many nights to extend Salem's lead to 7-3.

Conor Essenburg answered with a solo home run for Augusta in the seventh, but Salem got the run right back when Justin Barry doubled and later scored on another RBI knock from Ortiz, making it 8-4.

The GreenJackets refused to go away. An RBI single by Joe Olsavsky trimmed the lead to 8-5 in the seventh before Augusta threaten in the ninth. Caden Merritt delivered a two-run triple to bring the GreenJackets within one, but Wuilliams Rodriguez entered from the bullpen and retired Luis Guanipa on a strikeout to earn his fourth save and preserve the 8-7 victory.

Augusta left the tying run on third base and the go-ahead run on first base.

Salazar led the BeerMongers offense with a perfect 3-for-3 night, finishing a triple shy of the cycle while driving in three runs and scoring twice. Primera added two hits and three runs scored, Ortiz finished 2-for-3 with two RBIs, and Pinto collected two hits and crossed the plate twice.

Jason Gilman struck out six over 4.1 innings in his start, earning a no-decision, while Joey Gartrell (2-1) earned the win after allowing two runs across 2.1 innings of relief. Harry Blum bridged the game into the ninth before Rodriguez recorded the final out for the save.





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Salem has now won two straight games, four games of the six on the homestand and with the win hold onto a half game lead in first place of the North Division.

The RidgeYaks will look to secure a share of the series on Friday night as they continue their six-game set against Augusta at Carilion Clinic Field. First pitch is set for 6:35 p.m. on Christmas in July as 18-year old, top-20 prospect Sadeal Delzine makes his highly anticipated Single-A debut for Salem.

### Game Notes:

- Salem has now won four of their last five games and 11 of their last 16 games
- Kleyver Salazar hit his nine home run of the season and his second home run in the last two games
- Salazar leads the Carolina League with a .529 batting average (18-for-34) over his last nine games since July 6, in that stretch, the catcher has seen 15 RBI, seven extra base hits and a league leading 1.522 OPS over that stretch
- Salazar is hitting .769 over his last four games with 10 RBI and a 2.582 OPS since Sunday
- Salem has now homered in ten straight ballgames since July 9 and has seen 24 total home runs over their last 18 games since June 30
- The 10 game home run streak is the longest for Salem since an 11-game home run streak in June of 2022 and just the second longest streak for Salem since 2004
- Since July 2, Salem has won 11 of their last 16 games played, the Yaks leads the Carolina League since that stretch with a .299 average, 120 runs (leads Single-A), 168 hits (leads Single-A), and 67 extra-base hits over their last 16
- Franklin Primera went 2-for-3 and is now hitting .467 (7-for-15) over four games on the homestand with a 1.446 OPS
- Avinson Pinto went 2-for-4 to extend his on-base streak to 17 games since June 23, Pinto needs one more game to tie Andruw Musett for the longest on-base streak by any RidgeYak this season
- Justin Barry also ripped a seventh inning double to extend his hitting streak to a season long seven games since July 5
- Jason Gilman went 4.1 innings with six strikeouts, over the 27 games of the second half, Salem is 7-2 when any pitcher goes more than four innings in a game
- Harry Blum picked up his fourth hold of the season
- Williams Rodriguez has now saved four games this season matching his save total from the first three years of his career combined
- Salem now moves to 9-6 in Thursday games
- Salem leads the Carolina League North Division with a 0.5 game lead over the Fayetteville Woodpeckers

