



# GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

Game #81 | August 5, 2021 | PK Park | Eugene, OR

Eugene Emeralds (46-34) at Tri-City Dust Devils (31-49)

RHP Aaron Phillips (3-6, 6.67 ERA) vs. LHP Hector Yan (2-6, 5.63 ERA)

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## LAST TIME OUT

For the second straight night, the Emeralds got 5.0 shutout innings from their starting pitcher and belted three homers while cruising to victory over the Dust Devils. Eugene blanked TC, 8-0, for their fourth shutout victory of the season. Sean Roby and Heath Quinn each belted homers for their second straight night, and Ems starting pitcher Kai-Wei Teng tossed 5.0 scoreless innings for the second consecutive start. Relievers John Russell and Solomon Bates got the Emeralds over the finish line by each pitching a pair of scoreless innings. With Everett losing, the second place Emeralds gained ground in the standings for the second night in a row and are now 5.5 games back of the first place Frogs.

## TODAY'S STORYLINES

One of the most highly touted prospects in all of baseball makes his Emeralds debut tonight as SS Marco Luciano, ranked by Baseball America as the #7 prospect in baseball, will bat second and play at short for an Emeralds team that has posted 19 runs over the first two games of the series against Tri-City. The Dust Devils will send one of the Los Angeles Angels' top prospects to the mound in the form of LHP Hector Yan who has had a roller coaster season. Three outings ago, Yan fired a complete game against Spokane while holding a formidable Indians offense to just 3 hits and 1 run. Since, though, Yan has only gone a combined 2.2 innings while allowing 5 hits, 6 runs, 5 earned runs and 4 walks with no strikeouts. Eugene will counter with changeup specialist RHP Aaron Phillips who will be searching for his fourth win and is coming off a rough July that saw him go 1-2 with a 7.71 ERA in five starts.

## 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 home runs (50 | 4th), runs scored (184 | 6th), slugging (.458 | 9th), and OPS (.796 | 9th).

### 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 Genoves, 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	46-34
Home*	22-16
Road	24-18
Neutral	0-0
Day	3-2
Night	43-32
Runs Scored	454
Runs Against	435
Run Differential	+19
Team AVG	.245
Team ERA	5.00
HR for/against	100/80
Strikeouts (pitching)	855
Strikeouts (hitting)	818
Current Streak	W2
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	2-1
September	0-0
Scoring First	30-13
Opponent Scores First	16-21
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	10-3
Wednesday	9-5
Thursday	7-6
Friday	7-6
Saturday	5-8
Sunday	8-4
vs. Everett	1-5
vs. Hillsboro*	12-6
vs. Spokane	3-3
vs. Tri-City	2-0
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 16-30 with a 6.16 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 FOUR 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)

Meanwhile, Eugene's bullpen has gone an absurd 30-4 with a 3.92 ERA and 473 K's in 374.1 innings pitched. No other team in the Minor Leagues has fewer than 6 bullpen losses (Tampa Tarpons). Eugene's 473 bullpen K's rank 3rd in all of High-A.

### Strikeout Savants

Through 80 games, the Eugene pitching staff leads the High-A West in strikeouts (855). Their 855 collective strikeouts are 14 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 841), and the Ems rank 4th in all of High-A, too. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 855 K's rank 7th. Coincidentally, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A) lead all of Minor League Baseball with 976 K's. Entering today, San Jose's 986 K's are 99 more than the next closest team (Somerset Patriots | Double-A 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 (.253), 3rd in runs (201), 2nd in hits (223), 2nd on OB% (.355), 3rd in SLG (.437) and 3rd in OPS (.792) when hitting with two outs. It doesn't stop there, though. Eugene has come up big in late/close situations (definition below). Eugene ranks 6th all of High-A in AVG (.262), 5th in runs scored (51), 2nd in OB% (.392), 3rd in SLG (.477), and 2nd in OPS (.869) 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 (2.95) and 1st in opponent's average (.180).

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	28	.646	-	551	360
Eugene	46	34	.575	5.5	454	435
Spokane	39	41	.488	12.5	416	409
Hillsboro	37	43	.463	14.5	398	441
Vancouver	35	44	.443	16.0	339	380
Tri-City	31	49	.388	20.5	313	446

### 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

### #49 Aaron Phillips (RHP)

Height: 6'4 Weight: 225 lbs Acquired: Round 9, 276th (2017)  
 Hometown: Rochester, NY School: St. Bonaventure  
 Born: October 11, 1996 (24)

history. Father played college football at Ithaca. Attended Cleveland 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. 2019: Named a California League Mid-Season All-Star and named California League Pitcher of the Week for the weeks of June 9 and August 18; led San Jose in games started (21).

**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

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
3	6	6.67	12	12	0	0	0	0	55.1	79	49	41	4	4	25	0	34	.345	2

### #15 Hector Yan (LHP)

Height: 5'11 Weight: 180 lbs Acquired: International FA (2015)  
 Hometown: LA Romana, Dominican Republic School: N/A  
 Born: April 26, 1999 (22)

but he struggled to regain that velocity after the long layoff in 2020 and sat in the 92-93 mph range throughout the summer. Yan's low-80s curveball has excellent depth and his mid-80s changeup with late fade flashes average. Yan also throws a low-80s splitter that has been an out pitch for him at times, but it's thrown with such a low spin rate—usually under 1,000 rpm's—that it appears to knuckle at times, making it difficult to command." In 2019 him along with Dust Devils teammate Hector Yan, Jose Soriano, Parker Joe Robinson combined to throw a 10-inning no-hitter as the in a 1-0 Burlington Bees walk-off win over the Beloit Snappers. Also in 2019 him and Cole Duensing nearly combined for a no-hitter. The Bees were one out away from their first no-hitter since 2008 when Peoria's Ivan Herrere singled to left-center field off Duensing. Yan retired the first 14 batters he faced before issuing a two-out walk in the fifth inning to Josh Shaw. Yan pitched the first five innings and Duensing took over after. Per MLB.com scouting report: "Yan has the chance to have an intriguing three-pitch mix, all coming from an unusual and deceptive delivery. His velocity had ticked up to the mid-90s in the Midwest League in 2019, though he was mostly 93-94 mph at the alternate site last summer. His hard curve has excellent depth and misses bats consistently and he's throwing his changeup more consistently for strikes, but still needs to work on the offspeed pitch to create more movement. Using a delivery that features a big leg kick and cross-fire arm action that looks like he's stepping into the first-base dugout, Yan's funk makes for a tough at-bat and he struck out more than a batter per inning at the alternate site. It's also led to command issues, though his control has been trending in the right direction. Some see him as a future reliever because of his delivery and control, but if he can keep showing the ability to throw three pitches for strikes, he has a chance to stay in a rotation."

**PITCHES:** Fastball, Curveball, Changeup

**Notes:** 8th ranked prospect in Angels system per Baseball America. Per Baseball America's scouting report: "Yan spent three years in Rookie ball after signing for \$80,000 but broke out in 2019, when he finished second in the Midwest League with 148 strikeouts and limited opponents to a .190 average. He got valuable experience facing big leaguers at summer camp in 2020 and spent the year at the alternate training site, throwing just under 40 innings, before finishing the year in the Dominican League. Yan has a funky, low three-quarters arm slot and cross-body delivery that generates a ton of deception but also below-average control. His fastball averaged 94 mph and touched 98 during his breakout 2019,

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
2	6	5.63	15	15	1	0	0	0	64.0	52	48	40	13	9	43	0	66	.222	5

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
Friday, August 6	7:05pm PST	Tri-City Dust Devils	RHP Conner Nurse	LHP Jack Dashwood
Saturday, August 7	7:05pm PST	Tri-City Dust Devils	LHP Jake Dahlberg	RHP Robinson Pine
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