



# GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

Game #51 | July 2, 2021 | Ron Tonkin Field | Hillsboro, OR

Eugene Emeralds (33-17) vs. Hillsboro Hops (19-30)

RHP Conner Nurse (1-3, 4.91 ERA) vs. RHP Slade Cecconi (1-2, 4.91 ERA)

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## LAST TIME OUT

Ten. TEN. That's how many consecutive games the Emeralds have won over their in-state rivals after a 3-1 victory on Thursday night. For the second straight game, the Emeralds played a pair of runs in the game's first frame to take an early 2-0 advantage, and once again Armani Smith played a role in doing so. After Will Wilson and Armani Smith belted back-to-back solo jacks in the first inning of Wednesday's contest, Smith stepped up for the first time on Thursday and cranked a two-run blast on the first pitch he saw, his third homer in a 36 hour span to put the Emeralds up early, 2-0. Back-to-back doubles by Ismael Munguia and Wilson, respectively, made it 3-0 in the 3rd, but Hillsboro got one back in the bottom half after a triple from Reece Hampton was followed by a sac fly by Spencer Brickhouse. No side would score the rest of the way, though, as both starting pitchers - Eugene's Aaron Phillips and Hillsboro's Brandon Pfadt - fired seven solid innings, Tyler Schimpf worked a wild 8th inning for the Emeralds, and Eugene closer Chris Wright notched his fifth save in the 9th.

## TONIGHT'S STORYLINES

It's another day that sees the Emerald wake up with just a 0.5 game lead in the High-A West standings after Everett notched their third straight win over Vancouver last night, downing the C's by a score of 7-3. Both teams have been red hot of late with the Emeralds having won 5 straight and 13 of their last 15, while Everett has won 8 straight and 11 of their last 14. The two teams face off next week in a six-game set at PK Park in Eugene, the first time this season that the Frogs will journey south to the Emerald Valley. For the third time in four games this series, Hillsboro will be sending one of the Arizona Diamondbacks' top 30 prospects to the mound in the form of RHP Slade Cecconi (#6 ranked Dbacks prospect, per MLB.com). Eugene has already faced LHP Blake Walston (#5) and RHP Conor Grammes (#25), and RHP Drey Jameson (#21) made a surprise relief appearance earlier this series after having previously been listed on the IL entering the day.

## QUICK HITS

### Roster Additions

Last Saturday, the Emeralds made the following roster moves:

- C Ricardo Genoves added to Eugene roster from Low-A San Jose.
- C Patrick Bailey optioned from Eugene to ACL Orange.

Today, the Emeralds made another pair of moves involving catchers:

- C Brandon Martorano promoted to Double-A Richmond from High-A Eugene.
- C Brett Auerbach added to Eugene roster from Low-A San Jose.

Martorano becomes the fifth Emerald to be promoted to Double-A this season, joining RHP Jose Marte, RHP Caleb Kilian, RHP RJ Dabovich, and INF Simon Whiteman. In 25 games as an Emerald, the former 16th round pick out of North Carolina slashed .333/.463/.560 with 5 doubles, 3 triples, 2 homers, and 8 RBIs while posting a 1.023 OPS.

### 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-off HR vs. Columbia in bottom of 9th.

### Fitzzy Gets Frisky

Emeralds infielder Tyler Fitzgerald was named the High-A West Player of the Week for June 21-27, the second consecutive week that an Emerald has received the honor. Playing in all six games during the week, Fitzgerald went 9-for-21 (.429) at the plate with 2 doubles, 3 HRs, and 4 RBIs while posting a 1.407 OPS. Following the week, Fitzgerald ranked T-4th in the High-A West in RBIs (3), T-5th in HRs (7), T-7th in runs (34) and 10th in total bases (73).

### Labour Lights It Up

Emeralds outfielder Franklin Labour was named the High-A West Player of the Week for June 14-20. Over five games played during the week, Labour posed

a .455 batting average, nine RBIs, seven walks, and three home runs. Labour slugged 1.364 over the five-game span while also posting an incredible 1.995 OPS.

### Former Emerald Trea Turner Hits For Cycle... Again

Washington Nationals infielder and former Emerald (2014) Trea Turner became the first player in the modern era to hit for the cycle on his birthday, doing so on what was his 28th birthday on Wednesday, June 30 against the Tampa Bay Rays. He also became just the fifth player in Major League history to his for THREE cycles, joining Adrian Beltre, Babe Herman, Bob Meusel, and John Reilly.

### 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 20.1 innings pitched this season between Low-A San Jose and High-A Eugene, Wright has struck out an astounding 43 batters while going 9-for-9 in save opportunities.

### Strikeout Savants

Through 50 games, the Eugene pitching staff leads the High-A West in strikeouts (558). Their 558 collective strikeouts are 19 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 539). But it doesn't stop there... the Emeralds ranked 3rd in all of High-A, too, trailing only the Cedar Rapids Kernels (MINN) who have 560 and the Hudson Valley Renegades (NYY) who have 566. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 558 K's rank 8th. Coincidentally, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A) lead all of Minor League Baseball with 662 K's. San Jose's 662 K's are 68 72 more than the next closest team (Modesto Nuts | SEA).

### So Offensive

The Emeralds offense has seen its numbers creep up and up during the current homestand, and now the Emeralds rank T-7th in all of High-A in runs scored (273), 3rd in walks (239), 9th in on-base percentage (.343), and 9th in OPS (.741).

### Hops Hauling A\*\*

The Hops just won't stop running. Hillsboro leads ALL of the Minor Leagues in stolen bases with 140 through 49 games played. Their 140 SBs are 24 more than the next closest team, the Down East Wood Ducks (TEX | Low-A).

### 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 10-1 in one-run games this season.

## EMS BY THE NUMBERS

Overall	33-17
Home*	16-8
Road	17-9
Neutral	0-0
Day	3-1
Night	30-16
Runs Scored	273
Runs Against	234
Run Differential	+39
Team AVG	.237
Team ERA	4.20
HR for/against	51/42
Strikeouts (pitching)	558
Strikeouts (hitting)	486
Current Streak	W5
Longest W Streak	W8
Longest L Streak	L4
Extra Innings	2-1
Shutouts	2-1
1-Run Games	10-1
May	15-9
June	17-8
July	1-0
August	0-0
September	0-0
Scoring First	23-6
Opponent Scores First	10-11
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	7-1
Wednesday	5-3
Thursday	5-4
Friday	6-2
Saturday	4-4
Sunday	6-1
vs. Everett	0-0
vs. Hillsboro*	10-3
vs. Spokane	3-3
vs. Tri-City	0-0
vs. Vancouver	4-2
at Everett	1-4
at Hillsboro	2-0
at Spokane	5-1
at Tri-City	4-2
at Vancouver	4-2
Series Openers	8-1
Series Finales	6-2

\*Includes doubleheader played in Hillsboro vs. the Hops that was played as a 'home' game for the Emeralds due to schedule conflicts at PK Park with the Oregon Ducks Baseball Team. The Ems dropped both games of that doubleheader.

### Arizona Diamondbacks Prospect Watch

Despite it being a frustrating start to the season so far for the Hops, there's no shortage of top Dbacks talent on the roster. Per MLB.com, Hillsboro boasts 7 of Arizona's top 30 prospects, 6 of which are currently active:

- #1 OF Corbin Carroll (IL)
- #5 LHP Blake Walston
- #6 RHP Slade Secconi
- #17 INF Blaze Alexander
- #21 RHP Drey Jameson
- #25 RHP Conor Grammes
- #27 INF/OF Tristin English

### SF Giants Prospect Watch

Per MLB.com, the Emeralds boast 6 of the organization's top 30 prospects, 5 of which are active:

- #4 OF Hunter Bishop (7-Day IL)
- #5 LHP Seth Corry
- #12 SS/2B Will Wilson
- #17 1B Logan Wyatt
- #18 RHP Kai-Wei Teng
- #28 C Ricardo Genoves

### League Leaders

- Will Wilson:
- HR: 10 (T-1st)
  - Doubles: 13 (T-6th)
  - SLG: .516 (4th)
  - OPS: .864 (9th)
  - XBH: 25 (T-2nd)
  - Total Bases: 94 (T-1st)
  - Runs: 35 (T-7th)
- Franklin Labour:
- HR: 6 (T-10th)
  - RBI: 30 (T-6th)
  - BB: 28 (T-8th)
- Tyler Fitzgerald:
- HR: 7 (T-5th)
  - RBI: 30 (T-6th)
  - Runs: 35 (T-7th)
- Logan Wyatt:
- BB: 39 (1st)
  - OBP: .398 (7th)
- Ryan Walker:
- Games: 17 (T-6th)
- Chris Wright:

## HIGH-A WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB	RF	RA
Eugene	33	17	.660	-	273	234
Everett	32	17	.653	0.5	337	193
Vancouver	26	25	.510	7.5	258	266
Spokane	23	28	.451	10.5	233	238
Hillsboro	19	30	.388	13.5	196	255
Tri-City	17	33	.340	16.0	165	276

- Saves: 5 (T-2nd)

## TODAY'S PROBABLE STARTERS

### #35 Conner Nurse (RHP)

Height: 6'6 Weight: 210 lbs Acquired: Round 34, 1026th (2017)  
 Hometown: Winter Garden, FL School: Ridge HS (FL)  
 Born: July 31, 1999 (21)

throughout. Primary righthanded pitcher, steady tempo to delivery throughout, shows balance and ability to repeat, leading to lots of strikes. Medium arm stroke through the back, work to a near over-the-top release point, does a nice job of working on top of the ball to generate nice angle on fastball. Topped out at 90 mph, mostly true in life, tough pitch to elevate due to plane. Curveball shows hammer depth at 79 mph from similar release point, present strikeout pitch and will manipulate shape/velocity to pitch early in count. Has confidence and feel in his changeup, occasional hard fading life at 74 mph, projects with additional arm speed. Nice feel for a full arsenal and throws off speed pitches for strikes regularly. Righthanded hitter, wide base in the box with a short and inside swing path. Looks to lift and pull the ball, can turn on inner half pitch and flashes pop off the barrel. Named to World Showcase Top Prospect List. Good student. Committed to Seminole State College of Florida.

**PITCHES:** 4-Seam Fastball, 2-Seam Fastball, Cutter, Slider, Splitter

**BIO:** Signed for \$250,000, \$125,000 over slot. Did not pitch during the 2017 season due to a right rotator cuff strain. Did not pitch during the 2017 season due to a right rotator cuff strain. Just 21-years old, Nurse is pitching in his first full season of pro ball after spending 2018 in Rookie-ball down in Arizona, then splitting time between Arizona and the short-season Northwest league in 2019. Per Perfect Game coming out of high school: "Extra-large, athletic frame with broad shoulders and long limbs, leaner build with room to fill but also has present strength

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
1	3	4.91	9	9	0	0	0	0	44.0	45	26	24	8	1	21	0	40	.268	1

### #22 Slade Cecconi (RHP)

Height: 6'4 Weight: 220 lbs Acquired: Round 1, 33rd (2020)  
 Hometown: Oviedo, FL School: Miami (FL)  
 Born: June 24, 1999 (22)

of HS coupled with his strong commitment to U of Miami. Future reliever? Fastball-slider combination could make him effective in that role. Pitches: fastball (tops out at 97-98), slider, curve, change... slider is his best secondary pitch, considered one of the best in the Arizona system... improved his change at Arizona's alternate training site last year

**PITCHES:** Fastball, Slider, Curveball, Changeup

**Notes:** D-backs #6 prospect, and #2 pitcher behind Blake Walsto. 2020: pitched at D-Backs' alternate training site, his first pro experience. Drafted in Competitive Balance Round A: considered "first round," and signed to \$2.3 million bonus, slightly above slot value. 2020 as draft-eligible 50 with U Miami: 4 starts, 2-1, 3.80, 21.1 ip, 15h, 7bb, 30k, 2hr, 2hb, 2wp. 2019 as a true freshman with U Miami: 17g (13 starts), 5-4, 4.16, 80ip, 79h, 18bb, 89k, 6hr, 7hb, 3wp. Also drafted out of HS: 38th round by Baltimore; likely would have been a high draft pick if not for an injury his SR year

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
1	2	4.91	7	7	0	0	0	0	29.1	25	17	16	2	3	15	0	29	.236	1

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
Saturday, July 3	7:05pm PST	@ Hillsboro Hops	RHP Kai-Wei Teng	RHP Justin Vernia
Sunday, July 4	7:05pm PST	@ Hillsboro Hops	TBD	LHP Kenny Hernandez
Tuesday, July 6	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	TBD	TBD
Wednesday, July 7	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	TBD	TBD
Thursday, July 8	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	TBD	TBD
Friday, July 9	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	TBD	TBD