



GAMEDAY INFO & NOTES

Game #89 | August 14, 2021 | Ron Tonkin Field | Hillsboro, OR

Eugene Emeralds (50-38) at Hillsboro Hops (42-45)

RHP Ryan Murphy (1-1, 0.00 ERA) vs. RHP Justin Vernia (2-3, 8.16 ERA)

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LAST TIME OUT

Brandon Pfaadt stole the show last night, firing 7.0 shutout innings and going seven for the third straight outing as the Emeralds offense mustered only four hits in a sound 7-0 defeat. Pfaadt retired the last 13 Emeralds batters that he faced to pick up his first win over the Emeralds in his third try. Eduardo Diaz homered for the fourth consecutive game while Blaze Alexander also tallied a four-bagger. Reigning High-A West Pitcher of the Week Jake Dahlberg struggled in his fourth outing as an Emerald, lasting just 4.0+ innings while surrendering all seven of Hillsboro's runs. However, Eugene's bullpen was once again solid, albeit in a decisive defeat, as Solomon Bates, Tyler Schimpf and Nick Avila combined to fire 4.0 scoreless innings with just three strikeouts while surrendering just two hits and two walks. Coupled with Everett's win over Vancouver, the Emeralds lost ground in the standings last night after gaining a game the night prior.

TODAY'S STORYLINES

Ryan Murphy makes his first start away from home since being promoted to High-A, and he's coming of a pair of dazzling performances last week at PK Park that saw him rack up 16 strikeouts over 10.1 innings while not surrendering a single earned run. He'll face off against Justin Vernia who has had an up-and-down tenure in High-A since being sent down from Double-A Amarillo. With a win tonight, Hillsboro would clinch a series win over the Emeralds, a feat that only the Everett AquaSox have accomplished this season. Eugene enters today five games back of the first place Frogs. Utility man Brett Auerbach was reinstated from the 7-day IL today but he is not expected to make an appearance.

QUICK HITS

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.

Emeralds Sweep High-A West Weekly Honors

Emeralds pitcher Jake Dahlberg has been named the High-A West's Pitcher of the Week while Emeralds outfielder Ismael Munguia has been named the High-A West's Player of the Week. Winning weekly awards is nothing new to the Emeralds this season, and this particular week marks the second time this season that the Ems have swept both the pitcher and player of the week honors (Caleb Kilian and Diego Rincones | May 4 - 9). Dahlberg, who made his PK Park debut on Saturday after being signed from the Chicago Dogs of the American Association on July 24, was simply sensational in six scoreless innings of work. The southpaw enjoyed a stretch that saw him set down sixteen consecutive Dust Devils batters en route to finishing the night with 6.0 innings pitched, two hits, no runs, no walks and nine strikeouts. Munguia, meanwhile, led the team in batting average, hits, doubles, runs, stolen bases, slugging and OPS during last week's series. The Nicaragua native went 14-for-24 (.583) at the dish with five doubles, one triple, one HR, ten runs scored, and five RBIs while going 3-for-3 in stolen bases and posting a 1.000 slugging percentage and a 1.583 OPS. The pair become the sixth and seventh Emeralds to receive a High-A West weekly honor this season, joining OF Heath Quinn, INF Tyler Fitzgerald, OF Franklin Labour, OF Diego Rincones, and RHP Caleb Kilian (2).

Fitzzy Getting Frisky

Tyler Fitzgerald has been on an absolute tear to start the month of August. Through 11 games played so far this month, Fitzgerald is slashing .426/.471/.809 with a 1.279 OPS, 7 doubles, 1 triple, 3 HRs, 11 RBIs and 11 runs scored. Fitzzy has tallied multi-hit games in 7-of-11 games played so far this month, highlighted by a 5-for-6 performance on August 6 against Tri-City that saw the former Louisville Cardinal hit for the cycle... in the first five innings of the game. Among all High-A players in the month of August, Fitzgerald ranks 4th in AVG (.426), 1st in total bases (38), 7-9th in RBI (11), 5th in SLG (.809), and 4th in OPS (1.279).

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.

Strikeout Savants

Through 88 games, the Eugene pitching staff leads the High-A West in strikeouts with 939. Their 939 collective strikeouts are 27 more than the next closest High-A West team (Everett - 912), and the Ems rank 5th in all of High-A, too. Across all of Minor League Baseball, Eugene's 939 K's rank 9th. Coincidentally, the San Jose Giants (San Francisco - Low A) lead all of Minor League Baseball with 1,071 K's. Entering today, San Jose's 1,071 K's are 98 more than the next closest team (Hudson Valley Renegades) High-A East | NYY).

The Clutch (E)Gene

Eugene has been one of the best teams hitting with two outs in all of High-A. Eugene ranks 2nd in AVG (.254), 3rd in runs (223), 2nd in hits (246), 2nd on OB% (.355), 3rd in SLG (.443) and 3rd in OPS (.798) when hitting with two outs. It doesn't stop there, though. Eugene has come up big in late/close situations (definition below). Eugene ranks 3rd all of High-A in AVG (.267), 3rd in runs scored (59), 2nd on OB% (.395), 2nd in SLG (.486), and 2nd in OPS (.880) in late/close situations. The pitching staff has been just as good, too. In late/close situations, the Eugene ranks T-3rd in High-A in ERA (3.19) and 1st in opponent's average (.181).

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.

Tale Of Two Pitching Staffs

Collectively, Eugene starting pitchers are 18-33 with a 6.03 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 SIX 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)
- Jake Dahlberg: August 7 vs. TRI (6.0 IP)

Meanwhile, Eugene's bullpen has gone an absurd 32-5 with a 3.87 ERA and 506 K's in 391.1 innings pitched. No other team in the Minor Leagues has fewer than 9 bullpen

EMS BY THE NUMBERS

Overall	50-38
Home*	25-17
Road	25-21
Neutral	0-0
Day	3-2
Night	47-36
Runs Scored	504
Runs Against	473
Run Differential	+31
Team AVG	.248
Team ERA	4.92
HR for/against	112/91
Strikeouts (pitching)	939
Strikeouts (hitting)	897
Current Streak	L1
Longest W Streak	W8
Longest L Streak	L5
Extra Innings	5-1
Shutouts	4-2
1-Run Games	15-8
May	15-9
June	17-8
July	11-16
August	6-5
September	0-0
Scoring First	34-15
Opponent Scores First	16-22
Monday	0-2
Tuesday	10-4
Wednesday	9-6
Thursday	9-6
Friday	8-7
Saturday	6-8
Sunday	8-5
vs. Everett	1-5
vs. Hillsboro	12-6
vs. Spokane	3-3
vs. Tri-City	5-1
vs. Vancouver	4-2
at Everett	4-8
at Hillsboro	4-6
at Spokane	9-3
at Tri-City	4-2
at Vancouver	4-2

losses (Tampa Tarpons, Charleston RiverDogs, Portland Sea Dogs). Eugene's 506 bullpen K's rank 4th in all of High-A.

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 15-8 in one-run games this season, with each of the last seven contests between the Ems and Hops having been decided by just one run.

Ems On The Move

With the trade deadline coming and going on at the end of July, the Emeralds saw two 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.

SF Giants Prospect Watch

Per Baseball America's recently updated midseason prospect rankings, the Emeralds boast 4 of San Francisco's Top 30 prospects:

- #1 SS Marco Luciano
- #15 C Ricardo Genoves
- #22 RHP Ryan Murphy
- #27 1B Logan Wyatt

Olympic Ems

Diego Rincones, Jasier Herrera and Ismael Munguia each 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.
- Rincones (Venezuela): 5 games | 4-for-19 (.211), 1 2B, 1 HR, 2 R | Hit walk-off HR vs. Columbia in bottom of 9th.

Rincones later suited up for the Venezuelan National Team during the WSBC Final Qualifier held in Mexico. The barrel-chested outfielder made his mark in both stints with the Venezuelan National Team, including a walk-off homer against Columbia in Florida and later a three-run homer against the Dominican Republic in the championship game of the Final Qualifier, a game that Venezuela would go on to lose, 8-5, to just miss out on qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics.

HIGH-A WEST STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB	RF	RA
Everett	54	32	.628	-	604	421
Eugene	50	38	.568	5.0	504	473
Spokane	43	44	.494	11.5	458	447
Hillsboro	42	45	.483	12.5	384	409
Vancouver	39	49	.443	16.0	444	496
Tri-City	34	54	.386	21.0	346	494

TODAY'S PROBABLE STARTERS

#32 Ryan Murphy (RHP)

Height: 6'1 Weight: 190 lbs Acquired: Round 5 (2020)
 Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY School: Le Moyne
 Born: October 8, 1999 (21)

Per Baseball America Draft Report: "Murphy was a stalwart of Division II Le Moyne's rotation for three years, piling up 215 strikeouts and just 44 walks in 203.2 innings. His impressive performance carried over into last summer in the New England Collegiate Baseball League, where he led the circuit in ERA (2.25) and was named pitcher of the year. Murphy's fastball sits around 90 mph with a high spin rate, and he mixes in a slider and changeup, though his offspeed offerings are below average. He fills up the strike zone, which helps his stuff play up." COLLEGE: In three seasons for the Dolphins, Murphy went 16-9 with a 3.40 ERA working primarily as a starter (29 starts, one relief outing). In 203.2 collegiate innings, he struck out 215 while walking 44. As a freshman at Le Moyne, Murphy fired a 7.0-inning no-hitter in the second game of a doubleheader at the University of New Haven on April 15, 2018. The no-no was the eighth individual no-hitter in school history and the first by a freshman.

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

BIO: Promoted from Low-A San Jose to High-A Eugene on July 29. At time of promotion, led all of Minor League Baseball in strikeouts (116). While with San Jose in 2021, Murphy went 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. Departed San Jose as the Low-A leader in strikeouts (116), ERA (2.96) and innings pitched (76.0). Third pitcher to be promoted from San Jose to Eugene this season, following LHP Chris Wright and RHP Austin Reich. Ranked #25 in Baseball America Midseason Giants prospect rankings.

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
1	1	0.00	2	2	0	0	0	0	10.1	5	5	0	0	1	3	0	16	.143	1

#27 Justin Vernia (RHP)

Height: 6'2 Weight: 205 lbs Acquired: NDFA (3/5/19)
 Hometown: Las Vegas, NV School: Gonzaga
 Born: September 22, 1995 (25)

Per Baseball America Draft Report: "Vernia was a standout pitcher at Gonzaga, where he led the team in wins (12-2) and ERA (2.53) in 2017. He was named the American Association Rookie of the Year in 2018, when he tied for the league lead in wins, going 12-2, 3.32, 20g (all starts), 119.1ip, 122h, 22bb, 91k. Undrafted after his senior year at Gonzaga in 2017: that year, he was 7-3, 3.11 in 14g (all starts), 89.2ip, 88h, 20bb, 59k, 10hr. Pitched two years at Gonzaga after two seasons at Tacoma Community College: at Tacoma CC he was 22-0 over two years, ERA under 1.50. Sports management major at Gonzaga: his Zags bio said his career goal is to be GM of an MLB team

PITCHES: ...

Notes: Joined Hops on June 1: came down from AA when RHP Matt Tabor went up. Earlier this year with AA Amarillo: 1-0, 6.17, 7g (all relief), 11.2ip, 14h, 1bb, 11k, 4hr, 0hb, 0wp. 2019 in first year of affiliated pro ball spent most of year in starting rotation at High-A Visalia (with brief stints at Low-A Kane County and Triple-A Reno): at High-A was 8-3, 3.65,

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	IBB	K	AVG	WP
2	3	8.16	13	6	0	0	0	0	43.0	76	42	39	4	0	10	0	32	.402	1

UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	EMERALDS STARTER	OPPONENT STARTER
Sunday, August 15	1:05pm PST	@ Hillsboro Hops	RHP Kai-Wei Teng	RHP Shumpei Yoshikawa
Tuesday, August 17	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	RHP Aaron Phillips	TBD
Wednesday, August 18	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	RHP Conner Nurse	TBD
Thursday, August 19	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	LHP Jake Dahlberg	TBD
Friday, August 20	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	RHP Ryan Murphy	TBD
Saturday, August 21	7:05pm PST	Everett AquaSox	RHP Kai-Wei Teng	TBD