

The Northern States League

Newsletter #557- June 28th, 2026

SPARROW LAKE'S MEYER THROWS NO HITTER AT ALBANY. 3 TEAMS WITHIN 3 GAMES AT THE TOP OF THE MURPHY DIVISION. DEVERS OF CROSTOWN TAKES THE HR AND RBI LEAD. CLEVELAND'S YANDY DIAZ WITH THE TOP BATTING AVERAGE. EAST YORK'S FRIED THE TOP ERA.

Dear Members,

The first half of our out of conference games have been played and the Cooper has a slim 8 game lead over the Schmidt (by W/L records). It is a time when many of us rest our regulars as we play these out of conference games, yet competition this month seems to be solid. Just 3 more 6 game series left and we're back into conference.

Series #6 results:

SC 3 at Roa 0, Roa 2 at SC 1
Key 1 at NE 2, NE 1 at Key 2
Gle 1 at Cro 2, Cro 0 at Gle 3
Alb 0 at Cle 3, Cle 3 at Alb 0
Voa 1 at Dun 2, Dun 2 at Coa 1
Fra 2 at GP 1, GP 2 st Fra 1

Yk 3 at Sou 0, Sou 2 at Yk 1
Cre 3 at Tac 0, Tac 0 at Cre 3
EY 2 at VT 1, VT 1 at EY 2
IN 3 at GB 0, GB 2 at IN 1
NH 0 at Lon 3, Lon 2 at NH 1
Mar 2 at SL 1, SL 1 at Mar 2

Series #7 results:

Yk 0 at VT 3, VT 1 at Yk 2
EY 3 at NE 0, NE 1 at EY 2
Cre 3 at Cro 0, Cro 2 at Cre 1
Dun 1 at Cle 2, Cle 0 at Dun 3
Coa 2 at GP 1, GP 2 at Coa 1
GB 1 at Lon 2, Lon 1 at GB 2

Gle 2 at Roa 1, Roa 1 at Gle 2
Tac 2 at SC 1m SC 1 at Tac 2
Key 2 at Sou 1, Sou 0 at Key 3
Alb 2 at SL 1, SL 3 at Alb 0
NH 2 at Mar 1, Mar 2 at NH 1
IN 2 at Fra 1, Fra 1 at IN 2

Series #8 results:

SC 0 at VT 3, VT 3 at SC 0
EY 0 at Roa 3, Roa 1 at EY 2
Key 2 at Tac 1, Tac 1 at Key 2
IN 1 at Cle 2, Cle 1 at In 2
GB 2 at Alb 1, Alb 0 at GB 3
GP 1 at SL 2, SL 2 at GP 1

Yk 2 at Cro 1, Cro 3 at Yk 0
Cre 0 at NE 3, NE 3 at Cre 0
Gle 2 at Sou 1, Sou 0 at Gle 3
Fra 2 at Mar 1, Mar 2 at Fra 1
Dun 2 at NH 1, NH 1 at Dun 2
Coa 0 at Lon 3, Lomn 3 at Coa 0

Longstown dominated the Winfield this month as they blitzed New Hudson 5-1 before waxing Coastal 6-0. This domination led to the biggest divisional lead we have right now, with the Prospectors taking a 5 ½ game lead over Duneland which went 12-6 in their own hot streak. It's clear that these 2 clubs will be in the division chase all year long, while others try to get on board. Indiana is in third place- just 6 ½ out of the lead with their awesome offense leading the way. The Imps grabbed 11 wins this month to stay relative and the pitching hasn't hurt them big time (4.25 ERA). At this point they are 2nd in HR with 97 to Duneland's 99. Grant Park was certainly a popular choice for the division lead early on but have spun their wheels thus far with a 27-28 record- still in striking distance if they can get off this flat streak.

Albany is the question mark team in the division and are currently 10 games below .500 after winning just 3 times this month including being no hit by Meyer. Marietta is just one game further behind Albany yet posting a solid 10-8 record for the month. Still to be seen, however, is what Duneland is going to do. As mentioned, they went 12-6, but that's 2 games worse than Longstown was for the month. One can only assume that a Duneland run is forthcoming.

The Winfield was the opponent for the Yount this month, and Cleveland continued to lead the group thanks mainly to a 6-0 over Albany. The Hit Men lead the conference now by scoring a conference best 270 runs. They are tied for 5th in the conference in batting average, but the team has the best runs allowed mark in the conference to counter. Al sent me a note about Schwarber who was as hot as the weather with his 18 games played and was 21 for 68 with 8 HR and 22 rbi. That will work. Coastal took a dive with just 5 wins in their 18 games and slid to a tie for 3rd with Sparrow Lake. Coastal's offense is okay, but the pitching has become a problem with a 4.54 ERA. Gulf Breeze had a nice month thanks mainly to a 5-1 over Albany and they are now 3 games down to Cleveland. Sparrow Lake rode the wave of Meyer's no hitter to a tie with Coastal for 3rd in the division. The Stallions went 10-8 for the month including a solid win over Grant Park (4-2) in face-to-face play. Frankfort is lurking- perhaps underachieving at this point with a 26-30 won/loss record. Looking at the team roster leads you to believe that a hot streak is coming. New Hudson rounds it out with just 6 wins this month and are now down by 10. Still, however, the division remains are closest top to bottom.

I think the Murphy Division gives us what will be the best race in the Schmidt Conference. Three teams are within 3 games of the top with Vermont up by 2 presently over New England while Crosstown is one further back. What? Huh? Yes- I said New England which has risen to the top of the division just 2 games down to arch-rival Vermont. Now I cannot tell you how long it's been that New England was a solid factor in a divisional race, but for now the club can rest on having a solid start. The Elite mashed Creekside 6-0 in series #8 to keep in touch with the top, where Vermont rests ahead by 2 games. Now East York was a big factor in this race as New England went just 1-5 with the 66ers, at the same time as Vermont going 2-4 against the Brett juggernaut. But Vermont followed up with 6 wins against Sugar Creek while New England was posting that sweep of Creekside. Now take these 2 team results and fold in Crosstown which had a tough month with an 8-10 record. The 'dales are gonna be a factor- hopefully for them June was just a stumbling block. So- to basically repeat- it is Vermont at the top, New England down by 2, and Crosstown by 3. We haven't heard the end of this one yet. In the 2nd portion of the Murphy standings, Roadside leads the other combatants with, interesting enough, a solid 4-2 series with East York. Roadside is down by 12 at this point, yet up 5 games over Southport which checks in at 19-37. Three further games back are Tacoma at 16-40. Roadside is 7th in the Conference with runs scored (257), yet Southport has the least number of runs allowed (in this group of 3) with 270 ER given up.

Goofy things are happening in the Brett Division. In series #8, both Creekside and Sugar Creek took a sweep. Tacoma was swept in series #6. This opened the door for another solid performance by Glenville which has snuck up to the top of the division. The Greys had a pair of 4-win series before taking 5 from Southport in series #8. So, 13-5 for the month will get it done. Creekside did it to themselves with their 0-6 mark with New England- yet countering that with a 6-0 over Tacoma. Their other series for the month was a solid 4-2 over Crosstown. So- it could have been worse, but the lead is now 3 games. Three further back is East York- trying to decide if they'll be a factor in this race after all. Like Creekside, the 66ers blasted

NE 5-1 and Vermont 4-2 before their Roadside stumble. But I'd bet that we'll see East York creep back up the division standings. Keystone is now out by 8 despite a solid 12-6 month. The C's took 5 from Southport and 4 from Tacoma to go along with a New England split. Sugar Creek checks in with a 17-game deficit but had a nice 4-2 over Roadside in series #6, while York rounds it out, now down by 20 games, despite a .500 month with the highlight being a 4-2 over Southport.

As mentioned, Sparrow Lake's Meyer threw a no hitter at Albany in series #7. The score sheet has been on the web page for a couple of days. What amazes me is that Sparrow Lake had 26 hits (and 17 runs) in the game, while Albany had zero and zero. How is that even possible? The lone blemish on Meyer's line is one walk given to Wallner. Every Sparrow Lake player (except Ozuna) had a multi-hit game.

Although we've updated it a couple of times this year, the Directory has the correct e-mail address for everyone. Please refer to that and trash older copies of the directory. At the same time, if I'm missing anything kindly let me know so I can update.

As you know, Coastal and Bob Jones opted to play the basic game this year. That decision might be one of the worst ever. Witness this- in series #4, game #1 at home with Frankfort, the following occurred. With one out, Jones rolls a "66"- 2R HR for Arozarena. He rolls a "66" for Bregman- solo HR. Busch came up and after a 37 strike, he got a 66 for yet another homer- that's 3 in a row. Up comes Bader and another "66"- 4 HR in a row. Oh the joys of playing basic. And yes, Bob, we can only do that for the opposing team, never our own.

Your team page on the web page always has your most up to date stats on it. It also has the limits left the way I have it. You'll want to periodically check your limits on that page which will hopefully prevent issues later in the season- especially the split pitcher innings limits.

That's all I have today. Enjoy the heat (yikes!) and the rest of your summer. I'd be okay with some winter temperatures, though.

Best Wishes-

Rich