



WINNIPEG GOLDEYES DAILY CLIPPINGS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13th, 2020

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WIN NO. 20 FOR GOLDEYES

WINNIPEG SUN – THURSDAY, AUGUST 13th

The Winnipeg Goldeyes beat the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks 6-4 at Newman Outdoor Field on Wednesday night. The victory was the 20th of the season for the league-leading Goldeyes.

The teams traded crooked numbers early in the game. Winnipeg took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the second on singles from Jordan George and Wes Darvill, both of which came with two outs.

Fargo responded with a four-run third, highlighted by a three-run home run from Drew Ward.

Winnipeg quickly tied the game in the home fourth on a Logan Hill double, and the Goldeyes took the lead for good in the fifth when Eric Wood's RBI double scored Kyle Martin. Hill beat out an infield, RBI single in the sixth to make it 6-4.

Winnipeg Goldeyes 6, Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks 4

WP: Hilton (5-1)
LP: Pike (1-4)
SV: Capellan (8)
HR: FAR Ward (7)

THE SKINNY: After scratching across the lead run in the bottom of the fifth, the Goldeyes received four shutout innings from their bullpen to beat the RedHawks 6-4.

PLAYER OF THE GAME: Reliever Nate Antone provided strong middle relief, striking out four and not allowing a hit over the sixth and seventh innings.

PLAY OF THE GAME: Wes Darvill started an inning-ending double play to help starter Kevin Hilton escape what started as a first and second, no-out situation with the game tied in the fifth.

UP NEXT: The Goldeyes and RedHawks conclude their series on Thursday night at 7:02 p.m. Frank Duncan takes on left-hander Matthew Tomshaw. The game can be heard on 93.7 FM.

BULLPEN HELPS GOLDEYES HOLD OFF REDHAWKS

STEVE SCHUSTER – WINNIPEG GOLDEYES – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12th

FARGO, ND – The Winnipeg Goldeyes (20-14) beat the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks 6-4 at Newman Outdoor Field on Wednesday night.

The Goldeyes served as the home team.

The Goldeyes took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the second. With two outs and no one on base, **John Nester** came back from a 1-2 count to draw a walk against RedHawks' starter Tyler Pike. After **Dario Pizzano** walked on four pitches, **Jonathan Moroney** came back from an 0-2 count to draw a nine-pitch walk that loaded the bases. On a full count, **Jordan George** hit a sharp, groundball single through the right side that scored Nester and Pizzano. **Wes Darvill** followed with a single to left that plated Moroney with the Goldeyes' third run.

The RedHawks (12-22) answered back with four runs in the top of the third. Brennan Metzger walked with one out and took second on a bloop single to right from Forrest Allday. Correlle Prime lined a single to left that scored Metzger, and the RedHawks took a 4-3 lead when Drew Ward hit an opposite field, three-run home run to left.

Winnipeg tied the game in the bottom of the third when **Kyle Martin** drew a leadoff walk, took second on an errant pickoff throw, and scored on **Logan Hill's** double down the left field line.

The Goldeyes' pitching settled in through the end of the game, and starter **Kevin Hilton** escaped a first and second, no-out jam in the top of the fifth when Darvill started an inning-ending double play on Alex Crosby.

Martin doubled to left-centre with one out in the bottom of the fifth. After Hill walked, **Eric Wood** sliced a double to right-centre that sailed past Allday and brought home Martin with the go-ahead run.

With the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the sixth, Hill beat out an infield single to score Darvill and make it 6-4.

Nate Antone relieved Hilton in the sixth, and struck out four batters over two shutout innings.

Jose Jose worked a perfect eighth on seven pitches, while **Victor Capellan** stranded the tying runs in scoring position in the top of the ninth to earn his eighth save of the year.

Hilton (5-1) earned the win, allowing four earned runs on nine hits in five innings. Hilton walked one and struck out one.

Pike (1-4) took the loss, allowing five runs, four earned, on six hits in four and one-third innings. Pike walked five and struck out four.

The four-game series concludes Thursday night at 7:02 p.m. **Frank Duncan** (4-2, 3.70) faces left-hander Matthew Tomshaw (2-2, 3.66). All the action can be heard locally on 93.7 FM CJNU and worldwide at www.cjnu.ca

For information on Goldeyes' merchandise and 2021 season tickets, visit the Goldeyes' official website at www.goldeyes.com

VIDEO: AUGUST 12th GAME HIGHLIGHTS

JASON YOUNG – WINNIPEG GOLDEYES – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12th

LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7zxL0Oy9IQ>

VIDEO: REDHAWKS COMEBACK FALLS SHORT IN 6-4 LOSS TO WINNIPEG

NICK COUZIN – KVRV FARGO – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12th

LINK: <https://www.kvr.com/2020/08/12/redhawks-comeback-falls-short-in-6-4-loss-to-winnipeg/>

REDHAWKS RALLY FALLS SHORT AGAINST WINNIPEG

FARGO-MOORHEAD REDHAWKS – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12th

After the Goldeyes scored three runs in the bottom of the second inning, the RedHawks came back with a four-run third inning to take their first lead of the game. Drew Ward hit a three-run, opposite field home run — his seventh of the season — to cap the scoring in the inning.

Winnipeg answered back with a run off RedHawks starter Tyler Pike (1-4, 4.38 ERA) in the bottom of the third to tie the game at four runs apiece. Pike picked up the loss after giving up the eventual game-winning run in the fifth inning. He went 4.1 innings and gave up five runs (four earned) on six hits while striking out four and walking five in the loss.

The Goldeyes added an insurance run in the sixth to bring the final score to 6-4. Kevin Hilton (5-1, 3.13 ERA) earned the win after giving up four runs on nine hits in 5.0 innings of work.

The RedHawks and Goldeyes will finish the Winnipeg home series at Newman Outdoor Field on Thursday night. First pitch is scheduled for 7:02 p.m.

CAPELLAN SAVES THE DAY OVER AND OVER FOR THE GOLDEYES

TAYLOR ALLEN – WINNIPEG FREE PRESS – THURSDAY, AUGUST 13th

IF it's the bottom of the ninth and you're trying to protect a lead, you want Victor Capellan on the mound.

Capellan, who's in his fifth year with the Winnipeg Goldeyes, made history on Tuesday in Fargo, N.D., as he earned his 71st career American Association save, which broke the league's all-time save record.

In the second game of a doubleheader against the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks, Capellan pitched a scoreless seventh inning to seal the deal on a 4-3 Goldeyes victory and earn a spot in the league's record book.

"This is something every baseball player wishes they could do — hold a record and be No. 1," Capellan, a 30-year-old from the Dominican Republic, told the *Free Press* in a phone interview through a translator.

"When I broke it, I felt relieved of a lot of pressure. I won't lie, when I got in the game, I felt the pressure to close and break the record. Once I did it, I felt a lot better."

Manager Rick Forney has leaned heavily on Capellan since the pitcher was acquired in a trade in 2016. Last season, Capellan recorded 27 saves, which set a franchise single-season record. The two-time league all-star also holds the AA record for career appearances with 276.

However, Capellan does his best work in the playoffs, as he was brilliant during the team's back-to-back championships in 2016-17. He appeared in 17 of the Goldeyes' 19 playoff games, including all 12 playoff victories en route to a pair of rings. In 19.1 post-season innings, he has a 2.79 ERA with 28 strikeouts. Perhaps the most impressive part of Capellan grabbing the record is the fact he didn't become the team's full-time closer until 2018.

But whether he's entering the game in the seventh, eighth, or ninth inning, Forney said you'd have a tough time finding a more reliable reliever in independent baseball than Capellan.

"I don't think there's any question on that. There's been a lot of really good relief pitchers and a lot of really good closers, but his numbers speak for themselves," said Forney, who's in his 15th season leading the club.

"I mean, ever since he's come to us, his numbers in that ninth inning are pretty astounding. You got to have some longevity to have some numbers like that in a short season like independent baseball. He's going to go down as one of the best in league history. He's obviously the best closer the Goldeyes have ever had. We've had a few of them over the years. I mean, Brian Beuning single-handedly won a championship for us back in 2012, but I can really say the success we've enjoyed as an organization winning championships in 2016 and 2017, we wouldn't have won those without Victor."

Infielder Wes Darvill was around for the championship runs in 2016-17. Darvill, who's in his fourth season with the Fish, said games often feel like they're only eight innings because if you can get Capellan the ball with a lead in the ninth, you're confident it's over.

"He's an absolute warrior. If he had to, he'd pitch every single day," said Darvill.

"He means so much to this team. What makes Victor so special is what people don't see: how hard he works and how well he takes care of his body being an older guy. I think his personality shows and you can see it on the field, but he brings so much energy to the clubhouse all the time. He's always playing music, always getting the guys fired up, he's just the total package of being great on the field and being a great teammate."

Despite all the innings pitched over the years, Capellan isn't slowing down. In fact, he's on pace to have his best season yet. He's picked up seven saves already and is boasting a near-perfect 0.60 ERA in 15 innings of work while helping the Goldeyes get out to a 19-14 start this season — a season in which the team is based out of Fargo and not playing any games at Shaw Park.

While Forney is thrilled with the numbers, it's Capellan's character that the skip appreciates even more.

"He's a great person. He's got a great heart," Forney said. "We have a lot of respect for one another. I think that's the big thing, we have a lot of respect for each other as human beings and as a coach-player relationship, we have a great relationship. It continues to build every year. I love Victor. I wish everybody got a chance to meet and get to know Victor the way we do."

GOLDEYES ADD VETERAN PIZZANO **WINNIPEG SUN – THURSDAY, AUGUST 13th**

The Winnipeg Goldeyes added a veteran presence to their lineup, signing outfielder Dario Pizzano, who had been playing for the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks.

Pizzano was hitting .286 with one home run and 14 RBI in 30 games for Fargo, and reached base twice in six plate appearances in his Goldeyes debut during a doubleheader Tuesday.

Pizzano's 15 walks equals his number of strikeouts, and the Boston native has fanned in just 11 percent of his career plate appearances.

"He has a good batting average, a good on-base percentage, and a good resume hitting at the higher levels of baseball," Goldeyes manager Rick Forney said.

"(Hitting coach) Kash (Beauchamp) and I evaluated our team, and felt like we needed another bat to hopefully give us some consistency and a little more left-right balance. He was right here in the backyard, and very much wanted to continue to play. I'm glad it worked out and am glad he's here."

Pizzano originally signed with the Sioux City Explorers this past winter. With the X's sitting out the 2020 season, Fargo selected Pizzano in the second round of the American Association Dispersal Draft in June.

A nine-year professional, Pizzano has enjoyed significant time in the high-minors of the Seattle Mariners and New York Mets' farm systems. The 29-year-old has reached triple-A twice, while spending six seasons at the double-A level. Pizzano also earned an assignment to the prestigious Arizona Fall League in 2015.

The Mariners drafted Pizzano in the 12th round in 2012 out of Columbia University where he was voted the Ivy League's Player of the Year as a junior. Three times during his run in the Seattle organization, Pizzano was voted a league all-star.

Along with the rest of the players chosen in the Dispersal Draft, Pizzano's American Association rights will be returned to the Explorers at the conclusion of the 2020 season.

The Goldeyes also placed left-handed pitcher Kevin McGovern on the Injured List, retroactive to his last appearance on August 1. Players are eligible to return from the IL after seven days, meaning McGovern could be activated at any point. Winnipeg's active roster currently stands at 20 players.

GOLDEYES' MARTIN HAS BEEN MASHING **WINNIPEG SUN – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12th**

Goldeyes first baseman Kyle Martin has quietly had one of the best years in the American Association.

The second-year Goldeye entered the team's doubleheader on Tuesday tied for third in the American Association with a .336 batting average, and tied for the league lead with 29 RBI.

Stretching back to July of last year, Martin has driven in 79 runs in his last 91 games.

Hitting coach Kash Beauchamp has lauded Martin as one of the "hardest working players on the team," and Martin was part of a contingent of Goldeyes position players who spent part of their day off on Monday taking optional batting practice at Newman Outdoor Field in Fargo, N.D.

"He has a good approach and knows what he's looking to do," Goldeyes manager Rick Forney said. "When his legs are fresh and his legs are under him, he can lift it as well as anyone in the league."

Since homering three times in the first two games of the season, opposing clubs have understandably pitched Martin carefully. Pitchers have tried to work Martin on, or just off, the outer half of the plate, while rarely challenging him inside.

In virtually all of Martin's plate appearances, teams have also employed an extreme shift, placing three infielders to the right side of second base. Part of the strategy behind the shift is hoping the batter will stick with a pull-heavy approach, which results in pitches on the outer half being pulled weakly into the wall of infielders.

Martin has refused to give in, and nearly 40 percent of his line drives and flyballs have been hit to centre or the opposite way.

"He's got a lot of pull side power, and he's built for (Newman Outdoor Field). But as we've seen Kyle last year, when he's going well, he's going to get base hits to all parts of the park. The infield will shift, and he can still hit the ball the other way."

Modeled after Yankee Stadium due to Fargo's connection to former MLB single-season home run king Roger Maris, Newman Outdoor Field is just 314 feet from home plate to the right field foul pole.

In 29 career games in the RedHawks' home park, Martin has a .352 average with six home runs and 28 RBI.

GOLDEYES ADD SEASONED HITTER PIZZANO

STEVE SCHUSTER – WINNIPEG GOLDEYES – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12th

FARGO, ND – The Winnipeg Goldeyes signed veteran outfielder **Dario Pizzano** on Tuesday.

Pizzano made his Goldeyes' debut during Tuesday's double header against the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks, reaching base twice in six plate appearances.

Pizzano hit .286 with one home run and 14 RBI in 30 games earlier this season for the RedHawks. The Boston, Massachusetts native had a .375 on-base percentage with 15 walks against only 15 strikeouts.

"He has a good average, a good on-base percentage, and a good resume hitting at the higher levels of baseball," said Goldeyes' manager **Rick Forney**. "Kash (Beauchamp) and I evaluated our team, and we felt like we needed another bat to hopefully give us some consistency and a little more left-right balance. He was available and very much wanted to continue to play. I'm glad it worked out, and I'm glad he's here."

Pizzano is in his ninth season of professional baseball, which includes two seasons in Triple-A and six years of experience at the Double-A level. A left-handed batter and right-handed fielder, Pizzano joins the Goldeyes with a career .279 batting average, a .361 on-base percentage, and a .425 slugging percentage over 759 career games played. Pizzano has walked (328) almost as many times as he has struck out (347) as a professional, and has fanned in just 11 percent of his 3,103 career plate appearances.

The 29-year-old Pizzano was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 15th round in 2012 out of Columbia University (New York, New York). Pizzano was voted the Ivy League's Player of the Year following his junior season in 2012 for the Lions. The Mariners assigned Pizzano to the Arizona Fall League's Peoria Javelinas in 2015. The 5-foot-11, 198-pound outfielder has averaged 79 runs scored, 36 doubles, 13 home runs, 85 RBI, and 71 walks per 162 games as a professional.

The RedHawks selected Pizzano from the Sioux City Explorers with their second pick in the American Association Dispersal Draft on June 16th. Pizzano's American Association rights will be returned to Sioux City at the conclusion of the 2020 season.

Additionally, the Goldeyes placed left-handed pitcher **Kevin McGovern** on the Injured List, retroactive to August 1st. The Goldeyes active roster currently stands at 20 players.

The Goldeyes take on the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks tonight at Newman Outdoor Field. The Goldeyes will serve as the home team. First pitch is at 7:02 p.m. All the action can be heard locally on 93.7 FM CJNU and worldwide at www.cjnu.ca

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GOLDEYES' REMAINING SCHEDULE ADJUSTED

STEVE SCHUSTER – WINNIPEG GOLDEYES – MONDAY, AUGUST 10th

WINNIPEG, MB – The Winnipeg Goldeyes, in conjunction with the Milwaukee Milkmen, St. Paul Saints, and American Association, have announced several location and time changes to the Goldeyes' remaining schedule.

The three-game series against the Milwaukee Milkmen from August 21st-23rd and from September 8th-10th will now be played at Franklin Field in Franklin, Wisconsin. The three-game series against the St. Paul Saints from September 4th-6th will now be played at CHS Field in St. Paul, Minnesota. The games were originally scheduled to be played at Newman Outdoor Field in Fargo, North Dakota. The Goldeyes will still serve as the home team for the nine games.

Beginning with the August 21st date, the Goldeyes were scheduled to play 16 of their final 19 games and spend 18 of the final 21 calendar days in the Fargo hub.

The adjustments result in the Goldeyes playing 12 of their final 19 games (and 18 of their final 25 dating back to August 14th) and spending 15 of the final 21 calendar days outside of the Fargo hub.

Winnipeg's total season travel (separate from any potential postseason games) will increase by 1,069 kilometres (664 miles). However, the remaining clubs will have their collective travel reduced by 3,555 kilometres (2,209 miles), trimming league-wide travel by 2,486 kilometres (1,545 miles).

As per Section 2 of the American Association Rules and Regulations, "No game in the schedule may be changed or transferred except by written agreement of both clubs with written approval of the league Executive Director."

Winnipeg Goldeyes Schedule Adjustments

Friday, August 21st vs. Milwaukee Milkmen – Franklin Field, 6:35 p.m.
Saturday, August 22nd vs. Milwaukee Milkmen – Franklin Field, 6:35 p.m.
Sunday, August 23rd vs. Milwaukee Milkmen – Franklin Field, 1:00 p.m.
Friday, September 4th vs. St. Paul Saints – CHS Field, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, September 5th vs. St. Paul Saints – CHS Field, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, September 6th vs. St. Paul Saints – CHS Field, 5:05 p.m.
Tuesday, September 8th vs. Milwaukee Milkmen – Franklin Field, 6:35 p.m.
Wednesday, September 9th vs. Milwaukee Milkmen – Franklin Field, 6:35 p.m.
Thursday, September 10th vs. Milwaukee Milkmen – Franklin Field, 6:35 p.m.

The Winnipeg Goldeyes return to action Tuesday evening with a double header against the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks at Newman Outdoor Field. Both games are scheduled for seven innings. First pitch for game one is at 6:00 p.m. All the action can be heard locally on 93.7 FM CJNU and worldwide at www.cjnu.ca

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GOLDEYES HILL MAKING POSITIVE IMPRESSION

WINNIPEG SUN – SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th

Winnipeg Goldeyes outfielder Logan Hill has impressed his hitting coach in terms of both production and mechanics.

The first-year Goldeye entered Friday third in the American Association with a .341 batting average, and has hit safely in 22 of 31 games played.

"Logan is a professional hitter," said Goldeyes hitting coach Kash Beauchamp. "What I would say to any kid that watches our games, watch Logan's head discipline. It's the foundation of a great swing. His head stays down and in the same spot. Nolan Arenado and Derek Jeter are two great examples of guys who really know how to use their head, which I think is the most important mechanical part of hitting.

"If your head is down, you're always going to be on the ball," Beauchamp continued. "Your body will go where your head goes. Great hitters are consistent, and he's very consistent with his head discipline."

Coming into 2020, Hill's career-high batting average was .297, achieved during his rookie professional season in 2015. On Wednesday night versus Chicago, the 27-year-old collected four hits, the last of which was the 500th of his career.

CROUSE LEARNS WORK ETHIC FROM DAD

Chicago Dogs centre fielder Michael Crouse keyed a victory over the Goldeyes on Thursday afternoon, scoring three runs in a 7-2 win that completed a three-game sweep.

The British Columbia native and member of the Canadian National Team also made several outstanding catches across the spacious real estate in Fargo's outfield.

Crouse's father, Ray, played for both the Calgary Stampeders and BC Lions in the 1980s. In 1984, Ray Crouse suited up in all 16 games for the NFL's Green Bay Packers. Ray's athleticism has been passed down to his son, as Michael is regarded as a five-tool baseball player, but the elder Crouse taught Michael far more about playing sports than mere fundamentals.

"I had the opportunity to play for someone who played professionally at the highest level," said Crouse. "He was my coach for football, baseball, basketball, and track. At a young age, he got all of my friends on the same philosophies. All of the teams that I was playing for had a winning mentality, so that kind of shaped who I am today in terms of how I live my life. I remember we'd be 8-0 in a football season, and we'd lose one game, and we'd have to run the entire practice, so it's those little things that kind of shaped my life and my career. I was very fortunate to grow up with someone that had a professional sports background."

Crouse played football up until high school before focusing on baseball where he was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in 2008. The 29-year-old admits he misses the gridiron, but is happy serving as a multi-tooled threat on the baseball diamond.

"When you watch it on Sundays, you're like, 'I miss it. Could I be out there on the field right now?'" said Crouse. "But at the same time, you hear stories about taking the field Sunday and barely being able to walk on Monday, or you see how short the careers are. So, yes, I miss it, but I really enjoy what I do now. I'm glad with the route I chose."

PITCHING AND DEFENCE STEADY

After experiencing some ups and downs over the first 10 games, the Goldeyes' pitching staff has settled in.

Winnipeg is second in the American Association with a team ERA of 4.19, and the consistency has actually been better than the already impressive ranking would indicate.

49 of the 139 runs the Goldeyes have allowed this season (more than 35 percent) are concentrated in seven innings, six of which came within the first two weeks. In the remaining 257.0 innings, the Goldeyes have averaged just 3.15 runs per nine frames.

"Our pitching has done a phenomenal job the last two weeks," said Beauchamp. "The hitting has backed off a little, but the pitching is keeping us in it. Pitching and defence wins championships. We just have to get through this little wall with our bats and get it going again. I think these two days off will let our bodies get healed up and fresh, and allow us to get back at it."

Defensively, the Goldeyes are third in the American Association with a .975 fielding percentage, and have turned a league-best 32 double plays.

UP NEXT

The Goldeyes are off again Saturday, and play a one-off game against Fargo-Moorhead on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Mitchell Lambson is expected to start for the Goldeyes. The game can be heard on 93.7 FM.
