



# SOUTHERN LEAGUE

OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CLUBS, INC.

Member of Minor League Baseball – Class AA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Topps Southern League Player of the Month Award

(May)

**MARIETTA, GA** – Huntsville Stars third baseman Mat Gamel has been named the Topps Player of the Month for May, as selected by the Southern League field managers. The Topps Company of New York, in conjunction with Minor League Baseball, presents the award each month to the top performer in each of the 10 full-season leagues.

Batting third in one of the minors' most potent lineups, Gamel ranked third in the Southern League with a .387 average and second with 28 RBI during the month. He also paced all of Double A with 48 hits and 83 total bases for the Stars, who batted .306 in May to become the Southern League's first team to collectively hit over .300 for a full calendar month since June of 2005.

Gamel singled on May 1 to extend a hitting streak to 16 games, a mark that stands as the longest in the league this season. He also singled on May 31 to extend his on-base streak to 46 games – a streak that was lengthened to a minor league season-best 53 games before being broken on June 8. In between those singles, Gamel pounded out 19 extra-base hits and produced 17 multi-hit games, including a dozen in the month's final 19 days.

A native of Neptune Beach, FL, Gamel established a personal season high with five RBI in an 11-3 victory at Montgomery on May 4. Four days later, he began an 11-game hitting streak that featured five homers and 11 RBI. Another double-digit hitting streak was born on May 22, when he singled twice to kick off a 13-game streak.

Consistency is nothing new to Gamel, who put together a 33-game streak while with Class-A Brevard County last year. It fell just three games shy of matching the longest hitting streak in the Florida State League's history. In 2008, Gamel has accounted for three of the league's first 16 hitting streaks lasting more than 10 games.

The 22-year-old Gamel homered in three straight games both from May 8-10 and May 28-30, and his 13 home runs through the season's first two months left him just four shy of matching his career high. Gamel had nine home runs in 128 games with Brevard County last year before topping Hawaii Winter Baseball with eight during the offseason. In his first full campaign after being selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the fourth round of the 2005 draft, Gamel belted 17 home runs for West Virginia of the South Atlantic League in 2006.

An integral piece to Huntsville's drive for a fourth consecutive half-season title in the Southern League's North Division, Gamel hit safely in all 11 games against division rivals in May. Through June 10, he was leading the Southern League with a .376 average and 59 RBI while ranking second with 14 homers for the first-place Stars.

	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB
Gamel	.387	124	28	48	11	0	8	28	12	1

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