



# EASTERN LEAGUE

## OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CLUBS, INC.

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### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### EASTERN LEAGUE ANNOUNCES WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS

PORTLAND, ME – The Eastern League is pleased to announce the winners of the **Eastern League Player of the Week Award** and **Eastern League Pitcher of the Week Award** for the week ending May 3<sup>rd</sup>:

**New Hampshire Fisher Cats first baseman/designated hitter Brian Dopirak** has been named the **Eastern League Player of the Week** for the week ending May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 25-year old had an outstanding week for the Fisher Cats, hitting .400 (10-for-25) with two doubles, three home runs, eight RBI, four runs scored, three walks and a .840 slugging percentage in six games during the week. Dopirak, who is a native of Tampa, Florida, had at least one hit in five of the six games he played in last week, including four multiple hit games. He also drove in at least one run in five of the six games he played in during the week, including going 3-for-5 with three RBI against New Britain last Tuesday at Merchantsauto.com Stadium. The 6'4", 230 lb. has been one of the top hitters in the league this season and currently leads the league in hits (30) and total bases (52). He is also tied for third in home runs (5), ranked fourth in slugging percentage (.571), tied for fifth in RBI (17), ranked sixth in OPS (.951), ranked eighth in batting average (.330) and tied for eighth in doubles (7). Brian, who was selected as the designated hitter on the Florida State League All-Star Team last season after hitting .308 with 27 homers and 88 RBI for Dunedin, was signed by the **Toronto Blue Jays** as a free agent on March 31, 2008.

#### **Brian Dopirak's Batting Line for the week ending May 3, 2009**

| G | AVG  | AB | H  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | R | SB | BB | SLG  |
|---|------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|---|----|----|------|
| 6 | .400 | 25 | 10 | 2  | 0  | 3  | 8   | 4 | 0  | 3  | .840 |

#### **Brian Dopirak's Batting Line for the 2009 Season**

| G  | AVG  | AB | H  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | R  | SB | BB | SLG  |
|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|------|
| 24 | .330 | 91 | 30 | 7  | 0  | 5  | 17  | 10 | 0  | 8  | .571 |

**Jeff Manship**, a right-handed starting pitcher for the **New Britain Rock Cats**, is the **Eastern League Pitcher of the Week** for the week ending May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 6'0", 165 lb. hurler made one start for the Rock Cats last week and went 1-0 with five strikeouts and a 0.00 ERA in seven innings pitched. Manship, who is a native of San Antonio, Texas, made his lone appearance of the week on Saturday evening at New Britain Stadium against the Trenton Thunder. He allowed just one hit and one walk while striking out five batters in seven innings of work to earn the win as the Rock Cats held on for a 7-6 victory. The 24-year old did not allow a runner to reach base in six of the seven innings he pitched and did not allow a runner to advance beyond second base at any point in the game while earning his second win of the season. Manship, who posted a record of 3-6 with a 4.46 ERA in 14 starts for the Rock Cats last year after being selected as a Florida State League midseason All-Star with the Fort Myers Miracle, currently ranks sixth in the league in innings pitched (26.0). Jeff, who enters the season ranked by *Baseball America* as the 11<sup>th</sup> best prospect in the Twins organization, was selected by the **Minnesota Twins** in the 14<sup>th</sup> round of the 2006 draft out of the University of Notre Dame.

#### **Jeff Manship's Pitching Line for the week ending May 3, 2009**

| G | W | L | SV | IP | H | R | ER | K | BB | ERA  |
|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|---|----|------|
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 7  | 1 | 0 | 0  | 5 | 1  | 0.00 |

#### **Jeff Manship's Pitching Line for the 2009 Season**

| G | W | L | SV | IP | H  | R  | ER | K  | BB | ERA  |
|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 5 | 2 | 2 | 0  | 26 | 25 | 15 | 14 | 18 | 9  | 4.85 |