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SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE  
YANKEES

SYRACUSE CHIEFS

TOLEDO MUD HENS

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2011

## RUGGIANO COMES UP BIG IN CLUTCH; BELOW WHIFFS 16 TO EARN PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONORS

The International League announced today that Durham outfielder Justin Ruggiano and Toledo pitcher Duane Below have been named the League's Batter and Pitcher of the Week for the period from May 2-8. Each is the second player on his respective club to win an IL weekly award this season. Ruggiano follows Durham pitcher Alexander Torres (April 11-17), while Below succeeds Hens outfielder Andy Dirks (April 25-May 1).

### JUSTIN RUGGIANO, Durham Bulls

### IL BATTER OF THE WEEK

Bulls outfielder Justin Ruggiano rode four multi-hit games to Player of the Week honors in the International League. His .476 average, .560 on-base percentage, and 5 stolen bases were 2nd in the League, while he tied for the IL lead with 9 RBI on the week. During a doubleheader Tuesday in Indianapolis, Ruggiano banged out two hits in each game, adding two runs and three stolen bases in the second game of the afternoon. Back home Thursday to face Syracuse after an off day, Ruggiano again went 2-3 with two runs scored. This time he also belted the game's big blow, a two-run 8th inning homer that tied the game 3-3 (Durham eventually won 4-3). Saturday night against the Chiefs, Ruggiano was the hero once again. His fourth hit of the night was a walk-off two-run single in the 11th inning to cap an amazing comeback after Syracuse took a 5-2 lead in the top of the frame. For the season, Ruggiano is now hitting .321 (10th in the League) to go along with 26 RBI (2nd).

29-year-old Justin Ruggiano is in his fifth season with the Durham Bulls. The outfielder was an International League All-Star in 2007. Ruggiano is a native of Austin, Texas.

	<u>G</u>	<u>AVG</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>SLUG</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SB</u>
<b>Week:</b>	6	.476	10	21	6	3	1	1	9	.857	4	5
<b>Season:</b>	29	.321	36	112	20	10	1	5	26	.563	15	7

### DUANE BELOW, Toledo Mud Hens

### IL PITCHER OF THE WEEK

Toledo southpaw Duane Below threw two gems this week and led the circuit with 16 strikeouts and 14.0 innings pitched. Below picked up the win on Tuesday at Pawtucket, tossing 6.0 solid innings of two-run, seven-hit baseball as Toledo rolled to a 7-2 victory. When Below took the hill Sunday against Charlotte, he was even better despite not factoring in the decision. Below retired the first fourteen batters he faced. He had surrendered just one hit the entire afternoon before Lastings Milledge connected for a solo homer in the 8th inning. After completing the frame, Below left the game with a 2-1 lead having struck out eleven Knights. Unfortunately for Below, Charlotte scored twice in the top of the 9th to take the lead, robbing him of a victory even though Toledo ultimately won 4-3. Below now sports a 3-1 record to go along with a 2.97 ERA for the season. He is tied for 4th in the League with 36.1 innings pitched.

25-year-old Duane Below is in his first season at the Triple-A level. Originally selected by Detroit in the 19th round of the 2006 draft, Below spent last season pitching for Double-A Erie where he went 7-12 with a 4.93 ERA. He never went more than 6.1 innings or struck out more than ten batters in any of his 2010 starts. Below is a native of Britton, Michigan.

	<u>G</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>SHO</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SV</u>
<b>Week:</b>	2	2	0	0	1-0	1.93	14.0	9	3	3	4	16	0
<b>Season:</b>	6	6	0	0	3-1	2.97	36.1	33	12	12	11	31	0