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GOAL FOR THE FALL OF 2022



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SCOREBOARD

IHSAA VIEWING SHOW

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Hassell, Vela Lead TinCaps to Second Straight Win

By Ben Shulman

LANSING, Mich. – The Fort Wayne TinCaps defeated the Lansing Lugnuts (Oakland Athletics affiliate), 7-2, at Jackson Field on Friday night. **Robert Hassell III** provided a home run and a double to power the offense, while starter **Noel Vela** dominated to keep the lead.

Hassell kickstarted the TinCaps (25-36) offense in the second plate appearance of the game. **Corey Rosier** walked on a full count to start it. Then, Hassell jumped on a first pitch fastball and hammered it onto the lawn on the right field. For the No. 2 Padres prospect, who leads the Midwest League with a .314 batting average, it was his eighth homer of the season. Over an eight-game hitting streak, he has eight extra-base hits. The Lugnuts (23-38) scored just once against Vela. The left-hander retired 14 in a row to finish his appearance at six innings, three hits, and six strikeouts to count one walk. The outing tied for Vela's longest of the season. A **Jack Stronach** double in the second and **Brandon Valenzuela** triple in the sixth turned into insurance runs. Fort Wayne led 4-1 after six.

Bigler, Thomas Earn All-Region Track and Field Honors

6/22/2022 | Track and Field

Recent Wabash College graduate [Max Bigler](#) and junior [Reis Thomas](#) earned 2022 NCAA Division III All-Great Lakes Region honors from the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) for their individual performances during the outdoor track and field season. Bigler received all-region recognition for his efforts in the high jump and decathlon. Thomas was honored for his performance in the discus throw.

The USTFCCCA honors the top-five individuals in each track and field event from each region as well as the members of the top-three relay teams from each region.

Bigler ranked fifth overall in the high jump for the 2022 season after clearing a top height of 2.00 meters (6 feet, 6.75 inches). He scored a total of 5,611 points in the decathlon as part of the 2022 North Coast Athletic Conference Championships to rank fourth in the Great Lakes Region in that event. Both marks were career-best efforts for Bigler.

Thomas produced the fifth-best mark in the region in the discus throw with a toss of 49.45 meters (162 feet, 3 inches) at the Mount Union Last Chance Meet in May. His throw set a personal-best effort in that event.

No Fairytale Ending for TinCaps on Princess Night

FORT WAYNE, Ind. -- There was no fairytale ending for the TinCaps on Princess Night at Parkview Field, as Fort Wayne fell to the Great Lakes Loons (Los Angeles Dodgers affiliate), 4-3, on Tuesday. The visitors from Midland, Mich., played the role of villains in front of 4,503 fans on a 90-plus-degree night. Fort Wayne (26-38) had the tying run on base in the bottom of the ninth, but came up short. The 'Caps, who were coming off a franchise-record-tying 22-hit game Sunday at Lansing in a 14-0 win, went 3-for-13 with runners in scoring position and left 12 on base while also hitting into a double play. Meanwhile, Great Lakes (39-25) won its sixth consecutive game to move ahead of Dayton for first place in the Midwest League's East Division first-half race by a half-game with only two nights remaining. TinCaps third baseman **Lucas Dunn** went 3-for-4 with a walk. Right fielder **Agustin Ruiz** was 2-for-4, including a double, his team's lone extra-base hit. However, the Loons took a 3-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning. 'Caps starter **Dwayne Matos** had retired 10 consecutive batters but a two-out walk and a hit brought up **Jonny DeLuca**, who launched a three-run homer. Fort Wayne got a run back in the sixth, only to allow another two out run in the top of the seventh -- this time unearned. The TinCaps pulled closer with an RBI hit by designated hitter **Brandon Valenzuela** in the seventh, and a run-scoring bunt hit by catcher **Anthony Vilar** in the eighth.

Robert Gasser Named Midwest League Pitcher of the Week

Left-handed pitcher posted 12 scoreless innings at Lansing

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – Fort Wayne TinCaps left-handed pitcher **Robert Gasser** has won the High-A Midwest League's Pitcher of the Week award for June 13-19, [Minor League Baseball announced](#) Monday.

The 2021 second-round draft pick made two starts in Fort Wayne's series at Lansing. In total, Gasser recorded 12 scoreless innings with 12 strikeouts, and just four hits and three walks.

In Sunday's series finale, the California native threw seven no-hit innings. The southpaw walked the first batter he faced and then retired the next 21 Lugnuts batters in a row. The University of Houston alum earned the win in that start, as well as in his five-inning outing last Tuesday to begin the series.

Going back to his last start at Parkview Field on June 8, Gasser has thrown 13 1/3 consecutive scoreless innings. For the season, he ranks third in the Midwest League in strikeouts (80), eighth in WHIP (1.21), and ninth in ERA (4.10). He's struck out 31% of the batters he's faced, or 11.31 per nine innings.

Gasser is [MLB.com's No. 8 San Diego Padres prospect](#). The lefty previously gained acclaim as the [2019 ABCA/Rawlings National Pitcher of the Year](#) at San Joaquin Delta College (CA). Gasser parlayed that junior college success into a scholarship at Houston, where he developed into the Cougars' ace in 2021 before being selected by the Padres.

This is the third weekly award given to a TinCaps player this season, and second to a pitcher. Last week, **Brandon Komar** was named Midwest League Pitcher of the Week. Outfielder **Joshua Mears** was named Midwest League Player of the Week for April 18-24 following another series at Lansing.

The last time the TinCaps claimed consecutive Midwest League Pitcher of the Week awards was June 2019, when **Joey Cantillo** won the honor back-to-back weeks on his way to eventually being named the league's Left-Handed Pitcher of the Year. This is the first time the TinCaps have had teammates win a weekly award back-to-back since July 2012, when infielder **Tyler Stubblefield** and outfielder **Kyle Gaedele** received consecutive Player of the Week accolades. (Aug. 20, 2017 is the only time the 'Caps have swept the awards with **Lake Bachar** winning Pitcher of the Week, while **Hudson Potts** won Player of the Week.) These honors date back to 2005.

After their 14-0 win at Lansing on Sunday in which they also tied a franchise record for hits in a game with 22, Gasser and the TinCaps begin a new series at Parkview Field on Tuesday against the Great Lakes Loons (Los Angeles Dodgers affiliate). [Click here](#) for tickets and more information.

Crawford, Huseman Named Academic All-Americans

AUSTIN, Texas – Conner Crawford and Noah Huseman of the Taylor University baseball team were the latest Trojan student-athletes to be named CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, earning Second-Team NAIA Baseball Academic All-American honors recently, as voted on and announced by College Sports Information Directors of America.

The prestigious list of First and Second-Team NAIA Baseball All-Americans included only 24 student-athletes from around the nation, with Crawford and Huseman making Taylor just one-of-four schools in the NAIA to claim more than one award.

Crawford took home his first CoSIDA Academic All-American award, after twice being named a CoSIDA Academic All-District recipient. The senior outfielder, finished his time at Taylor with a 3.75 grade-point average in exercise science and will earn his second Academic All-Crossroads League and NAIA Scholar-Athlete awards later this summer.

On the diamond, Crawford closed his career with one of the best individual seasons in program history, taking All-Crossroads League honors for a second time by smashing 17 home runs and driving in 69 runs, both of which were the second-best single-season tallies in program history.

Huseman also claimed the first CoSIDA Academic All-American honor of his standout career with the Purple and Gold. The senior pitcher was one-of-five pitchers from the NAIA to be honored, following his graduation with a 3.61 GPA in English education. Huseman will add his third Academic All-CL and third NAIA Scholar-Athlete accolades later this summer.

On the bump, Huseman secured his second-straight All-Crossroads League nod after going 6-3 with a 3.76 earned-run average and 1.25 WHIP over 81.1 innings. Huseman tossed two complete games and fanned a team-leading 11.3 batters per nine innings of work.

Crawford and Huseman are the 13th and 14th CoSIDA Academic All-Americans for Taylor University during the 2021-2022 year. The honors give TU 112 such awards in school history, with 110 of those coming since 2010.

The two honors from Crawford and Huseman also are the 13th and 14th CoSIDA Academic All-American nods in the history of the Taylor baseball program.

The CoSIDA Academic All-District and All-America awards are designed to showcase student-athletes for outstanding achievements in the classroom, as well as on the court or field of play. In order to be eligible for the honors, an athlete must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30, must have reached sophomore status academically with at least one full year at their current institution and must have participated in over half of the team's competitions as a key contributor during the current season.

Student-athletes are nominated for the awards by their institution's Sports Information Department and are selected via a vote by CoSIDA members from around the nation. To be eligible for All-American honors, a student-athlete must be selected as a First-Team Academic All-District performer.