

Bass

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ending July 4. During that span he went nine for 25, while hitting three home runs, four doubles and driving in eight runs.

"It felt good," Bass said. "But you wish you could be player of the week every week. You enjoy it, but you can't live off of it."

That's an idea that he understands well because he's also had extended struggles. He's floundered at the plate for periods. He has 34 strikeouts to his 16 hits, and a .222 batting average through 21 games.

And he's committed his share of "Bad News Bears"-like errors in the field, having collided with oncoming infielders and badly misjudged balls hit in his direc-

tion. Those are effects that Bass and Ems hitting instructor, Danny Farmer, chalk up to inexperience.

"Making the transition is difficult," Farmer said. "It's obviously a higher level of competition. He's taking on new challenges both at the plate and defensively. It's difficult, but he's working hard at it and getting better every day."

Tracking his brother Jayson's journey from the Braves' instructional leagues in 1994 to his current locale, just one step removed from majors, helped Kevin realize that the keys to achieving his ultimate goal are hard work and patience.

"Every day, every thing that you do extra, is an advantage you

have to get to the big leagues," Kevin Bass said. "The only thing you can do is just try to get there, just put up the best effort and show them that you want to go. But it's up to the big guys. If it was meant to be, it was meant to be."

Bass' logical perspective on his young career impresses his coaches.

"He's a very level-headed guy," Farmer said.

His friendly, generous demeanor makes him a favorite of the Eugene faithful — especially the ballpark's younger demographic.

After every home game, Bass is always the last member of the Ems to reach the locker room. That's because he's busy signing

his name repeatedly for the swarms of kids leaning over the dugout, wanting to get close to a pro baseball player.

Usually, a few of the luckier kids go away with more than an autograph and a memory. They leave Civic Stadium with a bat — albeit one that was broken during the game.

Bass, 20, said he understands the importance of those encounters.

"You see some ballplayers who act like they're better," Bass said. "But you're the same as [the kids] are, 'cause you were just there. And you never know, one of them might end up playing. Hopefully, you can touch one of them, and they'll do the same for little kids later."

For the time being, Bass and the rest of the Ems are trying to make it easier for all of their fans to root for the home team.

One-third of the way through their season, the teams' play has mirrored Bass'. The Ems' have been great sometimes, winning five out of six games at one point. And they've been terrible, starting the season 0-7 and often finding ways to blow big leads since then.

Bass said he expects that both he and his team are going to iron out those inconsistencies.

"I think that pretty soon, we're gonna start to come together really well," Bass said. "Everybody's excellent, it's just a matter of time before we just turn it on."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 13). Don't let your emotions take control this year. You'll need to be clear-headed to make a shrewd deal, or two or three. Your first opportunity comes around August, when going backward could actually help you go forward in your status. Aries September, a friend can teach you a good trick that could make a difficult job easy. Avoid unnecessary expenditure around November while relying on a loved one's resources. In December, stick with what's tried and true to both make and save money. Ponder a decision carefully around February and then go back to what you've done before, financially. Old friends prove best in May.
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — As the day goes on, you should become more relaxed. By the time the day is over, you may discover you're more tired than you thought. This is natural. It's just the adrenaline wearing off. Find a quiet place to settle in tonight, and you can be a spectator instead of a participant, for a change.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 4 — Something around your place has been irritating for quite some time, and it's just about to become intolerable. That doesn't mean it can't be fixed. In fact, you can do it yourself and save a lot of money. If you don't know how, you can learn. It could be kind of stressful, but you should have a breakthrough by tomorrow.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — You're going to want to save money, and you'll be one heck of a shrewd bargainer. You won't let anyone have the advantage; that's for sure. Don't get yourself in a position of showing off by spending too much. It might make you look good temporarily, but in the long run, it would be foolish.
CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — Everybody knows you're good at pinching pennies, but how good are you really? Cancer people are famous for creativity, generating money, saving money and producing miracles with hardly any resources. Instead of just imagining you could do all of the above, why not think of how you'd do it? Then, if the situation presents itself, you'll be ready.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 4 — Having the moon in your sign today revitalizes all your natural talents, and that's handy right now. You remember all the things you said you'd do — that aren't done. You'll have the energy to follow through on some of those ideas, and you might even make a couple of them happen. Go for it quickly. This condition

doesn't last long.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 — Yesterday your enthusiasm was boundless, but today you could run into barriers. If people tell you it can't be done, don't despair. They're right. It can't be done the way it's been done before. Creativity will be required, and you can be the one who comes up with the brilliant idea. It wouldn't be the first time.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 6 — You're up against a tough situation. Your expenses could make the money coming in seem like a pitiful amount. You may have to go into debt for something you want and need, but how should you do that responsibly? Talk to a person who's better at wheeling and dealing than you are.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 3 — Travel looks good today, especially in connection with your career. You could be looking for a better job, scouting possibilities for a new sales territory or visiting an older person who might be a good business contact. There is a link today between a conversation with an authority figure and your own income.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Travel conditions don't look great for most of the day. The situation gets a little better by tomorrow, but there are still complications. This would be a better day to take out a loan to travel or to save money by splitting expenses with someone. The overall outcome is positive.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Today you may feel compelled to save money and to spend it. It's a tough situation, but it can lead to the perseverance you'll need to spot a good bargain. Start with a really low offer. That way, if you do get any of the things you bid on, you'll get one heck of a fine deal.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 3 — Today, a combination of hard work and partnership takes over the spotlight. You already know about the hard work. But you may not have considered that somebody else would be happy to help you. Today, that person could emerge from out of the fog and offer to help. Watch for that.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 5 — Things go a lot slower than anyone wants them to, today. There are breakdowns in communication and travel and maybe even some sort of bureaucratic mess. Keep on pushing. Conditions will ease up later in the week, and things that take you three hours today will take about 15 minutes then.

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