

ATHLETE *of the Week*

presented by



ARMANI SMITH OF, Salem-Keizer Volcanoes

The Volcanoes outfielder is swinging one of the hottest bats in the Northwest League, raising his batting average by more than 50 points over a seven-game span.

In Salem-Keizer's three game series with the Boise Hawks, Smith went 8-for-10 at the dish with four RBIs, helping the Volcanoes pull off the three-game sweep.

Smith is batting .315 for the Volcanoes this season with four homers, 24 RBIs and has an OPS of .845.

Norwith Gudino, the Volcanoes' starting pitcher, had four strikeouts in five innings and won his first game against no losses. Ben Madison followed with three scoreless innings. Andy Rohloff was one out away from ending the game when Brett Wright doubled, moving Jesus Lopez to third base. A walk loaded the bases, another walk forced in a run, which made the score 5-1 and brought the tying run to the plate.

Cruz came in to get the final out. He gave up a two-run-single to Tanner Morris, but Cruz retired the next batter.

Juan Diaz, Vancouver's starter, took the loss at 3-5.

Sunday, Aug. 25: Vancouver 7, Volcanoes 1
The host Canadians went wild in the fourth inning, scoring six runs to take down the Volcanoes.

Salem-Keizer's lone run of the game came when Beicker Mendoza drove in Armani Smith in the top of the fourth. But in the bottom half of the frame, Vancouver answered with six of its seven runs. An RBI single by Gregory Contreras, a two-run double by Luis De Los Santos, a single by Tanner Morris and a two-run homer by Spencer Horwitz gave the Canadians the lead for good.

All six runs came off starter Conner Nurse, whose record went to 1-4. The winning pitcher was Luis Quinones in relief, with his second victory against one loss.

Vancouver outthit Salem-Keizer 12-9, and Mendoza had three of the Volcanoes hits.



KEIZERTIMES/Matt Rawlings

Beicker Mendoza runs out a ground ball.

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In the Salem-Keizer seventh, Jeff Houghtby tripled and then scored on a Jairo Pomares single. Canario doubled Pomares home and Armani Smith scored Rodriguez with a single. Canario scored as Martorano grounded out.

A two-out single in the ninth by Daniel Cope drove in Vladimir Dilone, but Jordan Scott struck out the next batter to preserve the win for Abel Adames (2-0). Colton Hathcock (0-1) was the los-

ing pitcher in relief.

Friday, Aug. 23: Volcanoes 4, Vancouver 1

Jasier Herrera pitched seven innings, allowing five hits and striking out three, leading the Volcanoes to victory in this first game of a road series. His record went to 5-3, and Jorge Labrador pitched the last two innings, getting his first save.

Armani Smith hit a solo home run for Salem-Keizer in the first inning, and Alex Canario hit a two-run homer in the sixth. The Canadians' one run came in the seventh on a sacrifice fly by Trevor Schewecke.

The losing pitcher was Gabriel Ponce, whose record went to 0-3.

Saturday, Aug. 24: Volcanoes 5, Vancouver 3

It looked like a breeze for Salem-Keizer until the ninth inning, but the Canadians got three runners home before reliever Israel Cruz put the fire out and had his fourth save.

The biggest of the Volcanoes 11 hits was a fifth-inning triple by Armani Smith that drove in Alex Canario and Carter Aldrete. Canario, Harrison Freed, Chris Corbett and Tyler Wyatt each had two hits for Salem-Keizer.

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