



NEW BERN RIVER RATS BREAKING NEWS



For Immediate Release
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ANTONINI EARNS CPL PITCHER OF THE WEEK HONORS

RALEIGH, N.C. - The Coastal Plain League announced Monday that New Bern's Michael Antonini and Tony Bajoczky of Gastonia were tabbed Rawlings Co-Pitchers of the Week, while Florence's Tyler Barnett and Matt Leake of Martinsville were named the Rawlings Co-Hitters of the Week for week two of action (June 12 - June 18).

On the mound, Antonini made two appearances, both starts, for the River Rats. The 6-2, 195-pound freshman from Georgia College and State University pitched a league-best 15 innings on the week, surrendering only four hits and two runs, none of which were earned. He walked only four and struck out a league-best 14, while also holding opposing batters to an impressive .085 average. While he didn't go down as the pitcher of record in any of the two games, he did finish with a perfect 0.00 ERA.

RATS DROP HEARTBREAKER, 6-5 IN 14; MORE REDWOLVES TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

NEW BERN, N.C. - The River Rats and Florence RedWolves played a wild, 14-inning game Sunday night, with New Bern falling just short, 6-5. After Florence scored three times in the top of the 14th to take a 6-3 lead, the Rats rallied behind Mark Sanders' 2-run triple that trimmed the lead to 6-5 and put the tying run on third base with two outs. Unfortunately, Sanders would be stranded, handing the River Rats a difficult loss against one of the CPL's best teams.

The River Rats will have plenty of chances to avenge that loss over the next nine days. Tuesday night, the Rats play in Florence; Wednesday night the teams battle again in New Bern; and next Wednesday (June 28) the teams face off again in Florence.

About the River Rats:

The New Bern River Rats baseball club is a member of the Coastal Plain League, a high-profile wood-bat collegiate summer baseball league. In 2006, the River Rats will play 29 home games at New Bern High School's Boykin Field. Ticket outlets include New Bern Tours in historic downtown New Bern and Swing Zone Family Fun Park on US Highway. The team's official website is www.newbernriverrats.com.

About the Coastal Plain League:

The Coastal Plain League is the nation's hottest summer collegiate baseball league. Celebrating its 10th anniversary season, the CPL is the largest summer league in the country, featuring 15 teams playing in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The CPL is certified by Major League Baseball, and gives college players the chance to refine their skills with wooden bats during the summer months. Players are housed with local host families for the summer and past experiences have been very positive for both players and hosts. For more information on the Coastal Plain League, please visit the league website at www.coastalplain.com.