HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER

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Paddlers lose Drew, Charvet for year; Walters shines at Honolulu

BY **KAMALEI HOʻOKANO** · HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER

The winter's money went to the back of the game. Almost $100 million on two relievers, Shane Drew and Chris Charvet, so that when the young starters arrived there would be someone to hand the ninth inning to. In the last two weeks the island learned that neither of them will pitch again this season.

Drew had five saves and a 0.77 earned run average in 11 and two-thirds innings. He is on the injured list and will miss the rest of the year. Charvet, who had 29 strikeouts in 24 and two-thirds innings, is hurt as well, and he will miss the rest of it too. Bill Esposito, the 36-year-old starter, is out for the season with them. Pablo Pena has seven saves.

Oahu is 18-30, last in the Ruby, 11 games behind Myrtle Beach and the worst record in the Fire Conference. At home the Paddlers are 12-12. On the road they are 6-18. They have been shut out eight times. The longest winning streak of the season is two games, the first two, on Opening Day weekend against Spokane.

The one man who has held his line is Travis Sudduth. He has made 11 starts with a 2.64 earned run average and has allowed two home runs all year. The staff around him has allowed 73, more than any in baseball. Tommy Martin has a 4.33 and has not won a game in 10 starts. Jose Alvares, who I wrote in March would not pitch this season, has made seven appearances, five of them starts, with a 6.94. I was wrong about that.

The young hitters are learning in public. Craig Busby, 24, has 32 runs batted in. Ricky Zuniga, 23, has six home runs in 26 games. Curt Schalla, 23, is hitting .219 with a .389 on-base percentage. Jimmy Terry has stolen 16 bases and is hitting .206. Adam Bills, back from a stint on the injured list, is hitting .143. Christian

Loredo, 38, is at .242 without a home run. Miguel Chavez, the catcher signed for a year in February, is no longer with the club.

Now the part Paul in Oahu named in March. He said the real target was 2034, and that the young starters were a year or two away.

Up the road at Triple-A Honolulu, three of them are pitching. Gary Walters, 22, is fourth on the game's Top 100. He has 54 strikeouts in 45 innings and a 2.60 earned run average. Casey Emerson, the first overall pick two years ago, is ninth, with a 2.35 in 46 innings. Oliver Zimmer, last May's second overall pick, is second on the list and has made seven starts at Honolulu. Carlos Navarro is 14th, Jonathan Reyes 24th. Honolulu is 13-23. Records at that level are a poor guide to what is coming.

I have watched this team since its first pitch. I have seen the water go out before. It has always come back with something in it.

Huron is here for two. Then four in Southland and on to Virginia.