SPOKANE CHRONICLE

MAY 23, 2033 · THE SPOKANE SASQUATCHES BEAT

Montano arrives, goes 5-2; Sasquatches sit at 20-28

BY **HAL ONDRUSEK** · SPOKANE CHRONICLE

Jonathan Montano has pitched in Spokane. In March I wrote that this city had never seen him throw. It has now seen him nine times. He has worked 42 and two-thirds innings, all of them in relief, many of them long, and he is 5-2 with a 3.59 earned run average. He has allowed two home runs. He is 23.

He has not started a game yet. That is the next thing I am waiting for.

The Sasquatches are 20-28, sixth in the Ruby, nine games behind Myrtle Beach. They have been outscored by 86 runs, the worst margin in the league, and they are last in baseball in on-base percentage, .277. They are also not last in their own division. Oahu is.

In April, after three straight wins over Oahu, I asked Sly whether this team was better than a rebuild.

> *"This team is still in rebuild," he said. "We are gaining assets while competing for last place."*

That is as plain as he has been with me, and I appreciate it.

I asked him about Ferdinand Kuik, too, who had seven home runs then.

> *"Kuik is an asset so far great pick up," he said.*

Kuik has 10 now, with a .268 average and 29 runs batted in, and he was player of the week in April. He signed for one year.

The rest of the lineup has not given him much company. Francisco Ojeda, who hit 41 home runs last year, is hitting .184 with six. Justin Hebert, in the first year of his $48 million deal, is at .194. Jeremy Olivas is at .193. Joe Kavka, the shortstop, has played 47 games and is hitting .253.

On the mound, Tyler Holman is 1-8 with a 5.82 and has allowed 15 home runs. Luis Meza is 0-5. Keith Davis, at 4.93, has been the steadiest starter. The best of the bullpen is Ed Hatcher, signed for two years in December, with a 1.25 earned run average and four saves.

Below Montano, the list has turned over. Aaron Myers, 18, last year's 14th overall pick, is 53rd on the game's Top 100 and has made six starts at High-A Princeton. Ricardo Morales is 62nd and Alan Smith 88th. Walla Walla, where Montano spent last summer, is 13-23.

Milwaukee is here for two. Then four in Kansas City, and Memphis after that. Spokane swept the Blues here two weeks ago. I would like to see Montano start one of those games.
