HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER

AUGUST 1, 2033 · THE OAHU PADDLERS BEAT

Paddlers win six straight; Chapa auditions, Loredo climbs

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

There is a morning in late July, after the trade winds have been gone a few days, when the water off the south shore goes flat as a plate and you can see the reef from the road. I have been watching for that morning for 32 years. It does not mean anything. I only notice that when it comes, the summer has turned, and this year it came while the Paddlers were winning.

They won six straight, from July 24 to July 30, the longest run of the season. They swept three in Las Vegas. They came home and took the first two from New Orleans. On July 5 they were 35-51. They have gone 13-6 since, and they are 48-57, sixth in the Ruby, 11 behind Myrtle Beach. Before you ask, they are seven behind the last playoff spot, and nobody here is counting. In May I told you this team had not won more than two in a row. I told you that the water had always come back with something in it.

I asked Paul in Oahu who he was shopping.

> *"We keep things close to the belt here," he said. "Obviously, we'll listen on anyone."*

He has been saying that to me, in one form or another, since the first year of this century.

I asked about Juan Chapa, who has come from nowhere. He signed on April 12. He was 5-0 with a 1.77 when I asked, and he is 5-1 with a 2.66 now, 10 starts and nine relief appearances, 68 strikeouts in 71 innings.

> *"He's making a strong case," Paul in Oahu said. "That's what the rest of this season is*

> *for; auditions."*

So watch them that way. That is how I have been watching. Tommy Martin has a 3.37 and is 6-9, and the box scores have been unkind to him. Pablo Pena has 24 saves and a 2.11 and came to the job when the two men Paul in Oahu paid for it went down. Curt Schalla has 19 home runs and a .362 on-base percentage. Craig Busby has 55 runs batted in. Alastair Waymouth is hitting .272. Tyler Joyner, the catcher, is hitting .181 and has 15 home runs.

Travis Sudduth is on the injured list, 4-4 with a 2.42, an All-Star in a year when he has made 13 starts. Shane Drew and Chris Charvet are there too, as I told you they would be. Jonathan Reyes, 33rd on the game's Top 100, was up for his turn and is hurt. Odoardo Carrascalo has a blister.

There is an older man still walking up to the plate here, and I would be a poor witness if I passed him by. Christian Loredo is 38. He is hitting .245 with eight home runs. He has moved to third on the all-time list in home runs, with 530, and third in walks, with 1,354. He takes them the way he has always taken them, looking at the pitcher as if the two of them had already discussed it.

Up the road, the young arms are throwing and losing and learning, and Honolulu is 40-53, and that is as it should be. Oliver Zimmer is third on the game's Top 100. Gary Walters is fourth, with 112 strikeouts in 99 and a third innings. Casey Emerson is 11th and has a 1.94. Carlos Navarro is 25th. Nick Kunz, Reyes, Matt Lee, Julio Figueroa and Jimmy Link are on it as well. That is nine names. Only Southland has more.

Paul in Oahu said 2034 is the target, and I have believed him about most things since 2001.

Montreal comes across the water for three. Then Chicago and Somerville, a long way from here.