



**International League of
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2009

COLUMBUS' MARTE AND BUFFALO'S NIESE NAMED IL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

The International League announced today that Columbus third baseman Andy Marte and Buffalo pitcher Jon Niese have been named the League's Batter and Pitcher of the Week for the period from June 29-July 5. Marte becomes the IL's first back-to-back Player of the Week since May of 2006 (pitcher Cole Hamels of Scranton/Wilkes-Barre). Niese is the second Buffalo pitcher in four weeks to be so honored, following Nelson Figueroa (June 8-14).

ANDY MARTE, Columbus Clippers

IL BATTER OF THE WEEK

Third baseman Andy Marte continued his red-hot hitting this week, finding himself at or near the top of the League in nearly every offensive category for the past seven days. Marte posted a .458 batting average (T-3rd) to go along with 2 home runs (T-4th), 6 RBI (T-3rd), 11 hits (T-1st), 6 doubles (1st), 8 extra-base hits (1st), 6 runs scored (T-4th), a .567 on-base percentage (2nd), and a .958 slugging percentage (3rd). During a two-game series against Toledo Wednesday and Thursday, Marte went 7-8 with two homers, three doubles, and four RBI. Marte is now 2nd in the International League in both batting average (.322) and slugging percentage (.544), and he's also 4th in RBI (46). The right-handed hitting Marte is batting .328 and has all 11 of his home runs against right-handed pitching.

25-year-old Andy Marte is in his ninth professional season after being signed by the Braves as a nondrafted free agent in 2000. He was acquired by Cleveland in a 2006 trade with Boston. Between 2005 and 2007 he appeared in over 300 International League games with Richmond and Buffalo. Marte is a native of Villa Tapia, Dominican Republic.

	<u>G</u>	<u>AVG</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>SLUG</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SB</u>
Week:	7	.458	11	24	6	6	0	2	6	.958	6	0
Season:	66	.322	77	239	33	18	1	11	46	.544	18	2

JON NIESE, Buffalo Bisons

IL PITCHER OF THE WEEK

Left-hander Jon Niese posted a 1.06 ERA in two starts this week while leading the League with 14 strikeouts and 17.0 innings pitched. Tuesday against Charlotte, Niese allowed three runs (two earned) in 8.0 innings, but left with the game tied 3-3 and did not receive a decision. He had surrendered just five hits and a walk with four strikeouts, but failed in his attempt at a fourth consecutive victory. Last night in Rochester, Niese turned in the IL's only individual 9-inning shutout of the week. He struck out a season-high 10 batters in the gem, allowing the Red Wings a mere five hits and two walks. After beginning the season 0-6, Niese has gone 4-0 since June 12 and allowed only three earned runs in five outings to lower his ERA from 7.36 to 4.32.

22-year-old Jon Niese was selected by the Mets in the 7th round of the 2005 draft out of Ohio's Defiance High School, where he became the state's first athlete to win back-to-back Player of the Year Awards. His senior season he allowed just one earned run in 78.0 innings (0.12 ERA). In 2008 he was named New York's Sterling Organizational Pitcher of the Year, and in September he earned his first big league victory after blanking Milwaukee for 8.0 innings. Niese is a native of Lima, Ohio.

	<u>G</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>SHO</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>SV</u>
Week:	2	2	1	1	1-0	1.06	17.0	10	3	2	3	14	0
Season:	14	14	1	1	4-6	4.32	81.1	85	46	39	23	75	0