

CAIN, CORREA WIN ASTROS' JUNE HONORS

Written by Marco LaNave
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Shortstop wins second straight monthly award, while left-hander is first-time Pitcher of the Month

DAVENPORT, Iowa (JULY 4, 2013) – Shortstop Carlos Correa is the Quad Cities River Bandits Player of the Month for June, and left-handed pitcher Colton Cain is the team's Pitcher of the Month, the Houston Astros announced on Wednesday.

The Houston Astros Player Development Department named a Pitcher and Player of the Month at each of their five in-season minor league affiliates, including four full-season affiliates and the Dominican Summer League club. These awards are chosen every month by the field staff of each team. Correa has won back-to-back Player of the Month awards.

Correa, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2012 First-Year Player Draft, led the River Bandits in June with a .370 batting average, 100 at-bats, 37 hits, 19 runs and 51 total bases. The 18-year-old tied for the team lead with 25 games played and 15 RBIs. In June, he also had 12 multi-hit games, two home runs and had a team-leading .510 slugging percentage. His current .327 batting average places him third in the Midwest League and second among the Astros full-season minor league players. Correa also had two hits while starting at shortstop for the Western Division in the Midwest League All-Star Game June 18 in Dayton, Ohio. On Monday, the Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico, native was named to the World Team roster for the 2013 SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game to be played July 14 at Citi Field in New York.

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Cain, acquired by the Astros in a July 24, 2012, trade with Pittsburgh, went 1-0 with a 2.31 ERA in June and led the pitching staff with a 0.91 walks-plus-hits-per-inning-pitched (WHIP) ratio. The 22-year-old Waxahachie, Tex., native tossed 23 innings with 16 strikeouts across six appearances, including three starts. He held opponents to a .177 batting average – the lowest against any Quad Cities pitcher who threw at least nine innings in June.

Through Tuesday, every Astros minor league affiliate has a winning record, and they are a combined 230-164 for a .584 winning percentage – the best among any organization's minor league system. Double-A Corpus Christi, advanced Class-A Lancaster, short-season Class-A Tri-City and the rookie-level Gulf Coast League Astros were each in first place in their respective divisions through Tuesday. Corpus Christi and Lancaster have already clinched playoff spots with first-half division titles.