

## 2019 Eliteserien Standings

1. Oslo Pretenders 5-1 .833
2. ØHIL Royals 6-2 .750
3. Kristiansand Suns 3-3 .500
4. Trondheim Earls 0-8 .000

## 2019 ESB Stat Leaders

### Batting Average:

1. Armando Rodriguez (ØHIL) .536
2. Sigbjørn Osa (ØHIL) .520
3. Emil Fjellvang (ØHIL) .500
4. Charles Conrad (ØHIL) .417
5. Nate Peterson (PRET) .412

### Runs Batted In:

1. Joe Rollwagen (PRET) 14
2. Charles Conrad (ØHIL) 10
3. Emil Fjellvang (ØHIL) 8
4. Armando Rodriguez (ØHIL) 8
5. Sigbjørn Osa (ØHIL) 8

### Earned Run Average:

1. Alex Guilford (PRET) 0.00
2. Emil Fjellvang (ØHIL) 1.20
3. Mads Eldevik (ØHIL) 4.50
4. Matt Connell (PRET) 4.67
5. Jonathan Whistler (KRS) 5.62



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## Beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Sees Three Teams Eyeing 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**With the second half of the 2019 Eliteserien starting up, we find ourselves with three clubs within reach of the top spot and the opportunity to take home the honor of 2019 Eliteserien Champions.**

The Oslo Pretenders, ØHIL Royals, and Kristiansand Suns all look to carry momentum into the second half of the season following the summer holidays. All three teams have their eyes on the top spot with the Pretenders going into the break having just edged out the Royals on winning percentage, with the Suns on lurking two games behind the defending champions. The 4<sup>th</sup> place team, the Earls of Trondheim, will look to get something going and play the role of spoiler as the race for 1<sup>st</sup> comes down to the wire.

These last few months have been loaded with excellent performances, both by crafty veterans and by some newer and younger faces that have burst onto the scene. We will take a look at what has been the driving force behind each club so far.

**Trondheim Baseball** - Although their win/loss record may not reflect it, the squad from Trondheim has been playing some good baseball. They have found themselves on the wrong side of some close games. Under the veteran leadership of Alek Nilsen and Bendik Johansen, this team is right on the cusp of becoming quite dangerous. With solid outfield play and tremendous speed on the bases, highlighted by Christian Taft and Elias Garbeg, this bunch can quickly capitalize and push runs across. If the pitching staff can find a way to limit the walks and the defense plays solidly behind them, watch out.

**ØHIL Royals** - The squad from ØHIL has put together quite the impressive start to the 2019 campaign, which includes taking down the defending champion Oslo Pretenders in game 1 of the final series of the 1<sup>st</sup> half. The Royals are led by power arm and salty veteran Emil Fjellvang, who is quite the household name in Norwegian Baseball. Also powering this potent offense are Armando Rodriguez, Sigbjørn Osa, and Charles Conrad, who, along with Fjellvang, are boasting the 4 highest batting averages in the league..... cont. next page

## Strikeouts:

1. Alex Guilford (PRET) 33
2. Alek Nilsen (TRND) 32
3. Emil Fjellvang (ØHIL) 31
4. Jonathan Whistler (KRS) 19
5. Mads Eldevik (ØHIL) 15

## NM 2019 Schedule:

### Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

Game 1- 10:00 Sola Aviators 5

Trondheim Baseball 6

Game 2- 12:45 ØHIL Royals 1

Kristiansand Suns 11

Game 3- 15:30 Trondheim Baseball 5

Oslo Pretenders 15

Game 4- 18:15 Sola Aviators 3

ØHIL Royals 9

### Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>

Game 5- 09:45 ØHIL Royals 15

Trondheim Baseball 0 (Bronze Final)

Game 6- 12:30 Kristiansand Suns 2

Oslo Pretenders 9 (NM Final)

### Final NM 2019 Results:

1. Oslo Pretenders
2. Kristiansand Suns
3. ØHIL Royals
4. Trondheim Baseball
5. Sola Aviators



## Emil Fjellvang (ØHIL Royals and Norwegian National Team)

**Fjellvang currently holds the league's 2<sup>nd</sup> best ERA (1.20) and sits in 3<sup>rd</sup> in strikeouts (31)**

ØHIL Royals cont.-

In addition to a high powered offense, the Royals have also benefitted from solid pitching. Between Fjellvang, Mads Eldevik, and Marius Sørå, ØHIL has one of the deeper pitching staffs in the country. Look for Fjellvang & Co. to be in the mix for the top spot come September.

**Kristiansand Suns** - Even with a 3-3 record at the break, the Suns still find themselves controlling their own destiny. At only 2 games behind the leading Pretenders, Andy Johnson's squad will look to make up the lost ground and take home the title. With one of the deeper offensive lineups in the league and pitching that can shut a team down in an instant, they are more than capable of doing just that. Led at the plate by the duo of Jaliel Alvarez and Gunnar Henriksen, this lineup can do a lot of damage quickly. On the mound, Jonathan Whistler and Andrew Keuhl carry the bulk of the load. Cont. on right-

While the pitching has been inconsistent at times, if you encounter the Suns on a day where both Keuhl and Whistler are on top of their game, it's going to be a long day at the park. Definitely look for the Suns to make a lot of noise in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

**Oslo Pretenders** - The defending champions have to like the idea of heading into the break in 1<sup>st</sup> place. The Pretenders were one bad inning away from wrapping up the first half undefeated, but dropped a hard fought game to the Royals. The team from Oslo rolls into the summer holiday with arguably the deepest roster in the league. Loaded with long-time veterans such as team leader Terje Hoaas, Leif Petter Sandvik, Darren McKellep, and Glen Wells, the Pretenders have also taken advantage of some new faces to keep things going. Joe Rollwagen has shown his prowess at the plate driving in a league leading 14 runs so far. Meanwhile, on the mound, solid pitching from ERA leader Alex Guilford (0.00) (33 K's) cont.-

and Matt Connell have ensured that the Pretenders always have a chance to win. This squad is hungry for another championship, and the rest of the league is just as hungry to take them down.

## NM 2019 Recap

Another NM has come and gone, and with it, came another Pretenders championship. The Oslo Pretenders breezed through the tournament taking down Trondheim 15-5 in the semifinal before besting Kristiansand in the final 9-2. The final was a tightly contested game until the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, when a grand slam by Leif Petter Sandvik gave the Pretenders a commanding lead. Alex Guilford picked up the complete game win for the Pretenders, striking out 11. Jonathan Whistler was tagged with the hard-luck loss, giving up 5 earned runs while striking out 9 over 5 innings.



As mentioned before, this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> half should bring a highly contested race for the crown of 2019 Eliteserien Champion. Three teams control their own destinies with extremely high leverage series remaining.

These series are highlighted the Oslo Pretenders making the trip down south to take on the Kristiansand Suns on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The following weekend, the Suns will welcome the ØHIL Royals to Dønnestad for another huge series. Last, but not least, we could have a final weekend series to cont.-

determine this year's champion. The Oslo Pretenders will make the short trip over to Bærum on September 14<sup>th</sup> to take on the Royals.

Worth mentioning, is that Trondheim Baseball also has two series remaining, one each against the Pretenders and the Suns. Trondheim, a team that improves with every game they play, is in the perfect position to cause chaos throughout the league if they are able to take down either the Suns or the Pretenders.

The conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season has brought with it a lot of good things. We have seen some performances and results that we may have expected, but we also have seen some breakout performances that have surprised us.

The question of who will take home the 2019 crown remains to be answered. Will someone take down the giant Oslo Pretenders, or will we have a new champion? Regardless, I suggest you put on your seatbelt, because the 2<sup>nd</sup> half should be a wild ride.

## Upcoming Events

- August 17<sup>th</sup>
  - o Postponed - rainout
  - o Trondheim Baseball @ Oslo Pretenders
- August 24<sup>th</sup>
  - o Kristiansand Suns @ Trondheim Baseball
- August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - o Oslo Pretenders @ Kristiansand Suns
- September 7<sup>th</sup>
  - o ØHIL Royals @ Kristiansand Suns
- September 14<sup>th</sup>
  - o Oslo Pretenders @ ØHIL Royals



## NM Recap Cont.

Aside from the Pretenders taking home this year's NM crown, the highlight of the weekend had to be the perfect game thrown by ØHIL's Emil Fjellvang in the Bronze Final. Fjellvang was nearly untouchable, quite literally, as he struck out 12 of the 15 batters that he faced in the shortened 15-0 victory. Fjellvang only needed 57 pitches to etch his name even further into the history books of Norwegian Baseball.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Half Notable Performances

Andrew Fox (KRS)

- .308 BA, .526 OBP, 5 R

Gunnar Henriksen (KRS)

- .368 BA, 4 2B

Christian Taft (TRD)

- .400 BA, .500 OBP, 9 SB

Enrico Guerrini (PRET)

- .500 BA, .692 OBP

Sigbjørn Osa (ØHIL)

- .520 BA, .613 OBP

Charles Conrad (ØHIL)

- .417 BA, 10 RBI

Armando Rodriguez (ØHIL)

- .536 BA, 14 SB