



International League News & Notes



April 5, 2007

BUFFALO BISONS

MILLER TIME IN BUFFALO: RHP **Adam Miller** gets the nod to start the Bisons' first game tomorrow against the Richmond Braves. Miller, 21, is coming off a spectacular season as he went 15-6 with a 2.75 ERA in 26 games with Double-A Akron. He was named Eastern League Pitcher of the Year, leading the League in wins. He was also named the Indians' #1 prospect by *Baseball America* prior to this season. After throwing 14 shutout innings for Cleveland this spring (8 H, 3 BB, 8 K), he went 1-0 with a 3.75 ERA in two exhibition starts with the Bisons (12.0 IP, 10 H, 7 R, 5 ER, BB, 7 K).

LOVULLO JOINS THE 700 CLUB: Manager **Torey Lovullo** is back for his second season on the Bisons bench. The Buffalo Baseball Hall of Famer led the Herd to a 73-68 record and 3rd place in the International League North Division in 2006. Lovullo has posted a winning record in each of his first five years as a professional manager. With a career mark of 397-302 (.570 winning percentage), Lovullo will be managing his 700th game Friday.

MOST VALUABLE RETURN: Outfielder **Ben Francisco** returns to Buffalo after his Bisons Co-MVP season in 2006. Last year, Francisco led the team in games (134), runs (80, T-4th in IL), hits (143, T-2nd in IL), doubles (32, T-5th in IL), extra-base hits (54) and stolen bases (25, T-9th in IL). He also finished 2nd on the team in home runs (17) and tied for 3rd in RBI (59). This spring, Francisco hit .294 (15-51) with 4 home runs and 6 RBI in 23 combined games with Cleveland and Buffalo.

CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS

KNIGHTS WELCOME A WINNER: **Marc Bombard** begins his first season as the Knights Manager. Bombard is the winningest active manager in Minor League Baseball. Bombard has won 1,556 games in 22 seasons. Bombard returns to the International League after spending 2005-06 as the first base coach for the Philadelphia Phillies. Bombard managed Scranton/Wilkes-Barre from 1997-2004.

KNIGHTS OPENING DAY STARTING PITCHER: **Heath Phillips** will get the start for the Knights as they begin the 2007 season against the Pawtucket Red Sox. Last season Phillips was named the International League's Most Valuable Pitcher in his first full season with the Knights. Phillips was second on the team with 13 wins last season and posted a 2.96 ERA. Phillips was named to the mid and postseason IL All-Star teams. This spring Phillips went 1-0 with a 3.00 ERA in three appearances for the White Sox in Cactus League play. Phillips also made one start for La Guaira of the Venezuelan League this winter.

FIELDS LOOKS GOOD: **Josh Fields** looks to top last year's IL Rookie of the Year season. Fields, who was ranked by *Baseball America* as the #2 prospect and best power hitter in the White Sox farm system, led the Knights last year in most offensive categories. Fields led the Knights in hitting (.305), home runs (19), hits (141), and was tied for the lead in doubles (32) and was second in RBI (70). He was named to the mid and postseason IL All-Star teams and participated in the Major League Baseball Futures Game.

TIDBITS: For the second straight season, the Knights will play their home opener against Pawtucket...Outfielder/DH **Ernie Young** begins his 18th season in professional baseball tonight and his second with the Knights...The 2007 season marks the 20th anniversary of the no-hitter thrown by current pitching coach **Juan Nieves** as a member of the Milwaukee Brewers.

COLUMBUS CLIPPERS

CLIPPERS OPEN ON THE ROAD: The Clippers will send RHP **Tim Redding** to the mound today looking for the team's third consecutive Opening Day win. Last year Columbus opened up with a 13-1 win against Scranton/Wilkes Barre at the Coop. Every Clipper got a hit, led by OF **Kevin Thompson** with four. The Clippers open the season on the road for the first time since 2005 when they traveled to Charlotte to play the Knights. Columbus won that game 11-10 thanks to a seven-run 2nd inning, highlighted by a **Robinson Cano** home run. Cano led the way for the Clips with two homers on the day to go along with a game-high three RBI and **Chien-Ming Wang** picked up the victory on the mound.

CLIPPERS PICK UP GONZALEZ: On Tuesday the Washington Nationals signed INF **Alex Gonzalez** to a Minor League contract and assigned him to Columbus. Gonzalez had been with Kansas City in spring training, hitting .444 (12-27) with four doubles, four RBI and four runs scored in 16 games. A 15-year Major League veteran, Gonzalez has played for Toronto, Chicago (NL), Montreal, San Diego, Tampa Bay and most recently Philadelphia.

DURHAM BULLS

THESE BISCUITS ALSO RISE: A core group from last year's championship team in Double-A Montgomery has joined the Triple-A Bulls this season. Three starting pitchers for Durham – **Jeff Niemann**, **Andy Sonnanstine** and **Mitch Talbot** – played a major role in last year's title run. **Tony Peguero**, 8th in the Southern League in ERA as a starter/reliever, will begin this year in the Durham bullpen. Outfielders **Jeremy Owens** and **Justin Ruggiano** join second baseman **Elliott Johnson** as the three position players who finished last year in Montgomery.

FAMILIAR FACES: The Durham roster includes 13 players who have been on the Bulls before. Among that group is **Jorge Cantu**, who was an IL All-Star in 2004, and is the only member of this year's opening day roster that was part of Durham's most recent championship club in 2003.

PITCHING POTENTIAL: On paper, the Bulls have the potential to have a very good staff. Seven of the 12 pitchers have been in the big leagues, and eight of the dozen are on Tampa Bay's 40-man roster. Each pitcher on the team began the spring in major league camp.

GOOD LUCK CHARM?: Of the position players on the Durham roster, one is seeking his fourth trip to the IL playoffs in as many years. **Jorge Velandia** was part of Southern Division champion Charlotte last year. The year before that he was in the playoffs with Indianapolis, and in 2004 was in the postseason with Richmond. Velandia committed only ten errors last year and was named the shortstop on the postseason IL All-Star team.

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS

LET THE GAMES BEGIN: Indianapolis opens its 2007 campaign with seven straight games at Victory Field (April 5-11). The Indians face Columbus in a four-game series before squaring off with Toledo in a three-game set. The Tribe is coming off back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1999-2000. The Opening Day roster features 14 returning players.

HELLO "FREDDY": Pirates INF **Freddy Sanchez**, the reigning National League Batting Champion, will start the 2007 season on a rehabilitation assignment in Indianapolis. Sanchez hit .344 with six home runs and 85 RBI in 157 big league games last year. He has been battling a sprained medial collateral ligament (MCL) in his right knee since March 6.

THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN TO THE SHOW: Indianapolis begins the season with only three players who have yet to taste the Major Leagues. They are INF **Brian Bixler**, RHP **Jesse Chavez** and OF **Nyjer Morgan**. Everyone else in the clubhouse has seen action in at least one big league affair.

FORMER INDIANS IN THE BIG LEAGUES: Thirty nine former Indians were on Major League Opening Day rosters this season. The list included a pair of No. 1 starters -- Milwaukee's **Ben Sheets** (2000-01) and Pittsburgh's **Zach Duke** (2005).

THE LOCAL KID RETURNS: Former Ball State star and No. 1 overall pick **Bryan Bullington** is back for his second season in Indianapolis. Bullington missed all of 2006 while recovering from right shoulder surgery. He earned the Indians' ERA Award in 2005 after turning in a 9-5 record and 3.38 ERA in 18 starts.

LOUISVILLE BATS

LOUISVILLE ON OPENING DAY: Since 1982, Louisville is 9-8 when opening a season at home, with the team winning their last three Opening Day home games (2001 - Columbus, 2002 - Toledo, 2005 - Ottawa). Overall, Louisville is 11-14 at home on Opening Day and is 3-0 since Louisville Slugger Field opened in 2000.

STARTING FIVE: The starting five for the Bats (**Bobby Livingston**, 24, **Phil Dumatrait**, 25, **Tom Shearn**, 29, **Homer Bailey**, 20, and **Mike Gosling**, 26) have an average age of 24.8 and have one Major League victory between them (Gosling). For the third straight season, Bailey is rated as the top prospect in the Reds organization and Livingston made his Major League debut last year with Seattle. Dumatrait, Shearn and Gosling all pitched for the Bats last season with Shearn tying **Chris Michalak** for the team lead in wins (9).

BATS BULLPEN: For as young as the Louisville starters are, the bullpen has a little more experience with an average age of 29. **Jason Kershner** (3 wins, 89 games), **Gary Majewski** (8 wins, 160 games), **Brian Shackelford** (2 wins, 63 games) and **Ricky Stone** (11 wins, 192 games) all have Major League games (504) and wins (24) under their belt. **Steve Kelly**, **Brad Salmon** and **Wes Wilkerson** fill out the rest of Louisville's bullpen; Kelly and Salmon pitched for the Bats last season.

POSITION PLAYERS: Outfielders **Dewayne Wise**, **Bubba Crosby** and **Tyrell Godwin** will start in the outfield for the Bats. **Joey Votto** is at first base, **Mark Bellhorn** (second base) and **Anderson Machado** (shortstop) are up the middle and **Earl Snyder** will be back in a Bats uniform manning third base. With **Ryan Jorgensen** beginning the season on the Bats' disabled list, **Dan Conway** will start tonight behind the plate. Infielders **Jeff Bannon**, **Aaron Herr**, **Jesse Gutierrez** and catcher **J.C. Boscan** are the rest of the Bats' position players.

NORFOLK TIDES

OPENING DAY ROSTER: The 2007 Norfolk Tides roster features 19 players who have appeared in the Major Leagues, 11 of whom played in the Major Leagues in 2006. The roster includes players from the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, and three players on the roster (**Gera Alvarez**, **Jim Johnson** and **Garrett Olson**) who will be making their Triple-A debuts. **Jason Dubois**, who is beginning the season on the disabled list with a strained right hamstring, attended Cox High School in Virginia Beach, which is located about 15 minutes from downtown Norfolk.

POWER UPGRADE?: The quartet of **Jon Knott** (32 home runs), **Jason Dubois** (22 home runs), **J.R. House** (15 home runs) and **Eli Whiteside** (11 home runs) combined to hit 80 home runs in 2006, four more than Norfolk's entire team hit a year ago (76 home runs). Catcher **Sandy Martinez** led the Tides with 11 home runs in 2006.

NEW AFFILIATION, NEW TEAM: Of the 29 players (24 active and 5 on the DL) beginning the season on Norfolk's roster, not one has previously been a member of the Tides. That is also true of the Tides' field staff, which does not have anyone who has been with the Tides prior to this season. 2007 marks the first year for Norfolk as the Triple-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles after spending the previous 38 years as the top farm club of the Mets.

OTTAWA LYNX

LYNX ROSTER FEATURES FAMILIAR FACES: It's fitting that, in this 15th Anniversary season when so much time will be spent reminiscing about the first 14 seasons of Lynx baseball, that the Lynx Opening Day roster include some blasts from the past. Outfielders **Ron Calloway**, **Lou Collier** and **Pedro Swann** will all embark on their second go-around in Canada's Capital. Calloway and Collier were both in Ottawa when the Lynx set a franchise record with 80 wins in 2002, while Swann was the team MVP in 2003—the last season the Lynx made the playoffs.

MOUND AND DETERMINED: Defending IL ERA king **Brian Mazone** headlines a Lynx pitching staff that includes six pitchers from last season's Scranton/Wilkes-Barre squad that led the IL in ERA, wins, and saves. The staff includes **Eude Brito**, **Jim Crowell**, **J.A. Happ**, **Yoel Hernandez** and **Brian Sanches**, in addition to Mazone. Newcomers include **Fabio Castro**, who played with Texas and Philadelphia last season, **Matt Childers**, **Kane Davis** and **Justin Miller**.

BAT-MEN BEGIN: **Gary Burnham** is looking to build off an excellent 2006 campaign and joins **Brent Abernathy**, **Brennan King**, **Carlos Leon** and **Danny Sandoval** in the Lynx infield. **Chris Roberson** is expected to supply speed to burn at the top of the Lynx lineup. He and **Jim Rushford** join Calloway, Collier and Swann in the Lynx outfield.

I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO GET ON THE ROAD AGAIN: The 2007 Lynx season kicks off in Rochester Friday and Saturday. They'll hit Buffalo Monday before closing down their season-opening nine-game road trip in Syracuse Saturday, April 14 to Monday, April 16.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX

PAWSOX ROSTER RECAP: Just four members of the PawSox Opening Day roster from last year return this season – LHP **Abe Alvarez** (for the third year in a row), LHP **Craig Breslow**, RHP **Manny Delcarmen**, and 1B **Jeff Bailey** (for the third year in a row). Those four and RHP **Bryan Corey**, LHP **Kason Gabbard**, RHP **Craig Hansen**, RHP **David Pauley**, and OF **David Murphy** are the only other players currently on the roster who appeared for the PawSox last season. Manager **Ron Johnson** (back for his third season at the helm), pitching coach **Mike Griffin** (the longest-tenured PawSox pitching coach in club history), and hitting coach **Mark Budaska** (his fourth season) along with trainer **Greg Barajas** (third year) represent an experienced PawSox field staff. Furthermore, on this year's club, 17 players have Major League experience (11 of the 12 pitchers have pitched in the big leagues) and 19 of the 24 players have Triple-A experience – only RHP **Devern Hansack**, RHP **Edgar Martinez**, 1B **Luis Jimenez**, 3B **Chad Spann**, and OF **Brandon Moss** will be making their Triple-A debuts.

PITCHING: The PawSox starting staff consists of Opening Day starter LHP **Kason Gabbard** followed in order by RHP **Devern Hansack**, RHP **David Pauley** (who all pitched for Boston last season), RHP **Runelvys Hernandez** (the former KC Royal), and LHP **Abe Alvarez** (who was Pawtucket's Opening Day starter last season). The bullpen features righties **Mike Burns**, **Bryan Corey**, **Manny Delcarmen**, **Craig Hansen**, **Travis Hughes**, and **Edgar Martinez** along with lefty **Craig Breslow** – all of whom have pitched in the majors with the exception of Martinez.

IN THE FIELD: The catching corps includes newcomer **George Kottaras** (who came over from San Diego for lefty **David Wells** late last season) and former Toronto & Tampa Bay backstop **Kevin Cash**. The PawSox infield features 1B **Jeff Bailey** (who led the Sox with 22 HR last season) & **Luis Jimenez** (up from Portland), veteran 2B **Joe McEwing** (the former NY Met from 2000-04), SS **Ed Rogers** (a standout with Ottawa last season), 3B **Chad Spann** (the youngest position player on the roster at 23), and INF/OF **Bobby Scales** (who had a fine season with Scranton/WB in 2006). The outfield spots will be manned by two youngsters and two veteran newcomers. CF **David Murphy** was with Portland, Pawtucket, and Boston last season, while RF **Brandon Moss** was the Eastern League Playoff MVP last September when he led Portland to the EL Championship. OF **Alex Ochoa** returns to the States after four years in Japan, and is joined by OF **Kerry Robinson** (the long-time National Leaguer).

RICHMOND BRAVES

SPRINGING FORWARD: 21 of the 24 players on the R-Braves opening day roster saw action in Major League Spring Training games in 2007. Several R-Braves had standout springs, including **Yunel Escobar**, who hit .373 in 23 games, **Martin Prado**, who hit .354 in 23 games, and **Doug Clark**, who hit .429 in 16 games. RHP **Buddy Carlyle** was 1-1 with a 1.69 ERA in six Grapefruit League outings for Atlanta.

IF IT'S OPENING DAY IT MUST BE BUFFALO: For the third straight year the Braves lift the lid on the season vs. the Bisons. The Braves have beaten the Bisons in each of the last two openers by a 5-4 score (RHP **Kevin Barry** was the winning pitcher in both games). It is not likely he will stretch that streak to three. He is scheduled to start the second game of the year. The Braves have won three straight openers. A win in the opener this year would tie a club record for consecutive Opening Day wins (four from 1992-95). Since 1966, Richmond is 15-26 in Opening Day games.

THE ROSTER: The roster stands at 24 with two on the Disabled List (RHP **Blaine Boyer**, oblique strain, and RHP **Phil Stockman**, ankle). RHP **Kyle Davies** appeared headed for Richmond but was recalled to Atlanta and is scheduled to pitch for the A-Braves Sunday vs. the Mets. RHP **Paul Bush** filled Davies spot. It is the second straight year the R-Braves have had a player recalled prior to Opening Day. The Braves roster features 13 players who played in Richmond last season, eight players who saw big league service in 2006, and six members of Atlanta's 40-man Major League roster.

ROCHESTER RED WINGS

THREE-PEAT: First baseman/outfielder **Garrett Jones** enters the 2007 season with back-to-back seasons with 20 or more home runs. He's the first Wings player to accomplish this since **Don Baylor** in 1970 & 1971. If he can hit 20 or more home runs in 2007 he would become the first Rochester player to do that in team history.

STAN THE MAN: Last season manager **Stan Cliburn** led the Red Wings to the Governors' Cup Finals. He became the first Red Wings manager to lead his team to the playoffs in his first season since **Marv Foley** in 1995.

RABE FOR MAYOR: The 2007 season will be outfielder **Josh Rabe's** fifth season with the Red Wings. Rabe becomes the first position player to play five seasons in a Red Wings uniform since catcher **Floyd "Sugar Bear" Rayford** (1980-1984, 1986 & 1987). The last player to play five-plus seasons in Rochester was LHP **Rick Krivda** (1993-1997 & 2000).

PRAY FOR GOOD WEATHER: The Red Wings will open the 2007 season with a 10-game homestand. The 10-game homestand is not only the longest homestand to start a season but also the longest homestand the Red Wings have had in April since 1967 when Red Wings records begin. Rochester will play 15 of their first 19 games at Frontier Field.

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE YANKEES

OPENING DAY GAMES: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre is hoping to have some better luck as a Yankees affiliate on Opening Day than they did as the Phillies affiliate. From 1989 through 2006 they were just 5-13, and just 3-11 since 1993. They are currently on a seven-game season opening losing streak dating back to 2000. The last Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Opening Day win was April 8, 1999 vs. Pawtucket when **Randy Wolf**, **Steve Schrenk** and **Darryl Scott** combined on the 7-0 shutout. Current Buffalo manager **Torey Lovullo** homered in the game.

MEET THE YANK" B" EES: With 26 letters in the English alphabet and only 24 players on a Triple-A roster, you would think last names would be evenly spread out across the alphabet. Not so. One quarter of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre roster has a last name that starts with the letter "B", including four pitchers. The B team includes **T.J. Beam**, **Colter Bean**, **Chris Britton**, **Erick Burke**, **Chris Basak** and **Andrew Beattie**. The next most popular letter is C and D with three players each.

VILLONE ADDED: Veteran lefty **Ron Villone** was added to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre roster this morning. Villone pitched the entire 2006 season with the New York Yankees going 3-3 with a 5.04 ERA in a career-high 70 appearances. His 80.1 IP out of the bullpen was also a career high (surpassing 64.0 IP in 2004 and '05) and ranked sixth among all American League relievers.

YOUNG THEY ARE: Youth is certainly plentiful on the Yankees opening day roster. Of the 24 players, only **Colter Bean** (30), **Raul Chavez** (34) and **Ron Villone** (36) have celebrated their 30th birthday (**Andy Phillips** turns 30 Friday). Among the starting pitchers, **Matt DeSalvo** is the “elder” statesman at 26, followed by **Steven Jackson** (25), **Ross Ohlendorf** (24), **Tyler Clippard** (22), and **Phil Hughes** (20).

SELLOUT: Tonight’s game is an official sellout marking the first time since 1989 the home opener sold out in advance. It will also mark just the 3rd time in franchise history the opener drew more than 10,000 fans.

SYRACUSE CHIEFS

MCGOWAN TO START OPENER IN DURHAM: Right-hander **Dustin McGowan** will be the Chiefs starter for the 2007 season opener tonight in Durham. McGowan, the former Blue Jays #1 prospect, split last season between Syracuse, where he was 3-5 with a 4.39 in 23 games, and Toronto, where he was 1-2 with a 7.24 ERA in 16 games. McGowan will be followed in the rotation by **Geremi Gonzalez**, **Josh Banks**, **Ty Taubenheim** and **Ismael Ramirez**, all right-handers.

EXPERIENCED ROSTER: Of the 24 players assigned to the Syracuse roster only pitcher **Brian Wolfe** does not have Triple-A experience. Six of the members of the Syracuse pitching staff have pitched in the Major Leagues and of the 12 position players only **Curtis Thigpen** has not played at least one game in the Major Leagues. Catcher **Sal Fasano** brings nine years of Major League experience to Syracuse and pitcher **Geremi Gonzalez** anchors the pitching staff with six years of Major League experience.

NO ROOM AT THE INN: Several key components of the 2006 Syracuse team will begin the season with the Double-A New Hampshire FisherCats and will serve as insurance should the Chiefs need reinforcement. Closer **Lee Gronkiewicz**, who is tied with **Ron Guidry** for ninth on the Syracuse all-time saves list with 23, was assigned to Double-A along with infielder **Rob Cosby**, who tied **Kevin Barker** for the team lead with 18 HR in 2006, and outfielder **Wayne Lydon**, who led Syracuse with 135 hits and 26 stolen bases last season.

“MAJOR” ACTION IN MINOR LEAGUE SPRING GAMES: The Chiefs finished the Spring Training schedule with a record of 10-5-1. Blue Jays’ ace **Roy Halladay** and number-two starter **A.J. Burnett** each picked up two wins for Syracuse this spring. One of the Chiefs losses came at the hands of Yankees pitcher **Mike Mussina**.

TOLEDO MUD HENS

CATCHER RABELO RECALLED BY TIGERS: On March 30, Detroit placed catcher **Vance Wilson** on the 15-day disabled list with a sore right elbow. The move led to the Tigers recalling Mud Hens catcher **Mike Rabelo** back up starter **Ivan Rodriguez**. Rabelo, a 27-year-old switch hitter in his seventh professional season in the Tigers organization, split the majority of last season between Double-A Erie and Toledo, and made his Major League debut on September 23 with Detroit. Rabelo hit .270 with three home runs and 22 RBI for the IL Champion Mud Hens in 38 games last season.

MINER TO START ON OPENING DAY: The Mud Hens have announced that right-hander **Zach Miner** will toe the rubber April 5 at Louisville as Toledo begins defense of their second straight Governors’ Cup crown. The 25-year-old started last season with the Mud Hens, going 6-0 with an ERA of 2.82 in nine starts. Miner was promoted to Detroit on May 31, going 7-6 with a 4.84 ERA with the Tigers in 27 appearances which included 16 starts. Miner won six straight starts with Detroit from June 10 to July 8.

TO THE SHOW...AND BACK: Other notables on the Mud Hens opening day roster with Major League experience include pitchers **Jordan Tata**, **Dennis Tankersley**, **Yorman Bazardo**, **Tim Byrdak**, **Vic Darensbourg**, **Jason Karnuth** and **Aquilino Lopez**, as well as catcher **Dane Sardinha**. Infielders **Jack Hannahan**, **Mike Hessman**, **Kevin Hooper**, **Ramon Santiago**, and **Chris Shelton**, along with outfielders **Brent Clevlen**, **Timo Perez**, and **Ryan Raburn** make 17 players total on Toledo’s initial roster with at least some Major League experience.

PITCHER SEAY TO DETROIT, DURBIN IN ROTATION: In part due to a blood clot injury keeping lefty **Kenny Rogers** on the shelf indefinitely, the Tigers purchased the contract of Mud Hens left-hander **Bobby Seay** on Saturday, March 31. Seay made the Tigers opening day roster out of camp last spring, before joining the Hens on June 21. The situation puts 11-year pro and former Hen **Chad Durbin** into Detroit’s starting rotation. Durbin went 11-8 with a 3.11 ERA in 28 starts for Toledo last season. Durbin led the International League with 149 strikeouts, which was second in all of Triple-A, and tied for the League lead with two shutouts. The 11 game-winner was a workhorse for the Mud Hens, tossing two complete games, with 20 of his 28 starts lasting six or more innings. Even before joining the Tigers on September 17 where he appeared in three games, he pitched 185 innings, the third most in all of Minor League Baseball.

PARRISH WILL MISS FIRST WEEK...ROJAS NAMED INTERIM MANAGER: Mud Hens skipper **Larry Parrish** will not be with the club as they open the 2007 campaign on a six-game road trip through Louisville and Indianapolis. Parrish underwent ankle surgery on Wednesday, April 4 in Detroit, and anticipates joining the team for the home opener on April 13 against Durham at Fifth Third Field. **Mike Rojas** will act as interim manager in Parrish’s absence, and has been with the Tigers organization for 11 years. Most recently, Rojas managed Lakeland in the Class-A Florida State League the previous two seasons. Rojas will resume his new duties as Detroit’s roving catching instructor once Parrish is fully recovered.