



International League News & Notes

June 19, 2008



CURRENT INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS IN ONLINE FAN VOTING FOR TRIPLE-A ALL-STAR GAME

Catcher

1. Jason Jaramillo, Lehigh Valley
2. Dane Sardinha, Toledo
3. Chris Stewart, Scranton/WB

Shortstop

1. Reid Brignac, Durham
2. Nick Green, Scranton/WB
3. Ray Olmedo, Columbus

Outfield

1. Brent Clevlen, Toledo
2. Matt Joyce, Toledo
3. Clete Thomas, Toledo
4. Brett Gardner, Scranton/WB
5. Jeff Bailey, Pawtucket
6. Andrew McCutchen, Indianapolis

First Base

1. Larry Broadway, Columbus
2. Jeff Larish, Toledo
3. Brandon Moss, Pawtucket

Third Base

1. Mike Hessman, Toledo
2. Josh Fields, Charlotte
3. Cody Ransom, Scranton/WB

Starting Pitcher

1. Eddie Bonine, Toledo
2. Brian Mazzone, Lehigh Valley
3. Homer Bailey, Louisville
4. Chris Lambert, Toledo
5. Jeremy Sowers, Buffalo
6. John Parrish, Syracuse

Second Base

1. Mike Hollimon, Toledo
2. Josh Barfield, Buffalo
3. Joe Thurston, Pawtucket

Designated Hitter

1. Timo Perez, Toledo
2. Eric Duncan, Scranton/WB
3. Dan Johnson, Durham

Relief Pitcher

1. Ian Ostlund, Toledo
2. T.J. Beam, Indianapolis
3. Blaine Neal, Toledo
4. Scott Patterson, Scranton/WB
5. David Robertson, Scranton/WB
6. Rick Bauer, Buffalo

Online voting concludes June 27

BUFFALO BISONS

ENS JUSTIFY THE MEANS: The Bisons received a big boost to their lineup this week with the signing of INF **Morgan Ensberg** to a Minor League deal by Cleveland. The 32-year old was a National League All-Star with Houston in 2005, a season where he belted 36 home runs and drove in 101 runs. In 731 career Major League Games with the Astros, Padres and Yankees, Ensberg has a .263 batting average with 102 doubles, 110 home runs and 347 RBI. He began the 2008 season with the Yanks and hit .203 (15-74) with 1 HR and 4 RBI in 28 games. He was designated for assignment by the Yanks on June 1. In his Bisons debut on Tuesday, Ensberg was 1-3 with an RBI-single.

BIG LEAGUE HITTER: INF **Asdrubal Cabrera** has been an offensive force for the Bisons since being optioned to the team on June 11. He has hit .394 (13-33) with three doubles and two RBI in eight games in the Herd's leadoff spot. Six of his eight games have been multi-hit efforts. Cabrera nearly bypassed the Triple-A level last year, playing only nine games with the Herd (.316, 3 RBI) as he went from Double-A to being on Cleveland's postseason roster. This year, Cabrera hit .184 (29-158) with one home run and 14 RBI in 52 games with the Indians.

A NEW CLOSER IN TOWN: RHP **Rick Bauer** is still 2nd in the International League with the 15 saves he earned in the first two months of the season, but the veteran was promoted to Cleveland on June 4. It looks like the Bisons finally have a new arm for the back-end of games with the promotion of RHP **Jeff Stevens** from Akron. Stevens has been impressive in his first five games at the Triple-A level, collecting 11 strikeouts in only 8.0 innings of work. He has converted both of his save opportunities, including a two-inning effort on June 8 in Pawtucket. Before joining the Herd, Stevens was 5-1 with a 2.51 ERA and one save in 17 games with the Akron Aeros.

CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS

ROAD TRIP SUCCESS: The Knights concluded a 12-game, 11-day road trip through the IL South Division, going 8-4. This was the Knights' most successful road trip of the season. They began with a two game split at Durham followed by an off day (when several players and Knights hitting coach **Joe McEwing** took place in the Charlotte Knights Charity Golf Tournament). The team then went to Norfolk where they swept the Tides. That was followed with a trip to Richmond that included two doubleheaders. The Knights split the series with Richmond 3-3 as they took the final two games.

NEW ADDITIONS: The Knights have gotten some great performances from some new players who have come up from Double-A Birmingham. LHP **Clayton Richard** won his second straight start Tuesday at Richmond. Richard is now 2-0 through his first two starts with a 1.93 ERA. What may be most impressive is that Richard has 12 strikeouts and has not allowed a walk. OF **David Cook** has also been sensational. Cook is hitting .444 through his first 8 games with the Knights. Cook also has four doubles and four RBI.

REHAB START: White Sox RHP **Esteban Loaiza** made a Major League rehab start for Charlotte on Monday night. Loaiza is expected to make another rehab start in the Knights' upcoming series against Lehigh Valley.

I DON'T LIKE MONDAYS: Monday hasn't been the most pleasant day for the Knights this season. After this past Monday's loss at Richmond the team fell to 1-7 on Mondays. The Knights seem to play best on Fridays and Sundays as the team has a 6-5 record on each of those days.

COLUMBUS CLIPPERS

A NEW FACE: RHP **Marco Estrada** took the hill for Columbus this week, becoming the 12th different starter used by the Clippers this season (24 different starters last year led the IL). Estrada made 13 starts for Harrisburg, posting a 6-3 record with a 2.66 ERA. At the time of his promotion he ranked 7th in the Eastern League in ERA and tied for 1st in shutouts (1). He led the Senators in IP (74.1), wins (6) and strikeouts (67), while tying for the lead in starts (13). Estrada drove in the winning run with a single, on Tuesday, to pick up his first IL victory.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN: The Clippers started their second 10-game road trip of the season. They are on game #16 of a stretch in which they play 20 of 24 games away from Cooper Stadium after having two games vs. Syracuse cancelled on their recent homestand. Columbus owns the 2nd-best road record in the IL at 21-15 (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre).

FIRST IN = WIN (USUALLY): When scoring the first run of the game, the Clippers are 25-6 (.806), by far the best record in the IL. However, the Clippers are 11th in the IL in the number of games scoring first (31).

THE DAY THE LIGHTS WENT ON IN COLUMBUS: This week was the 76th anniversary of the first night game in Columbus. Red Bird Stadium (Cooper Stadium) was the first park built with lights. The first night game in Columbus, had to wait for two weeks until St. Paul came to town. In 1932, the visiting team shared the gate receipts. That summer, the Cardinal's GM Branch Rickey traded the right to play in the first night game to the St. Paul Saints for their shortstop **Jimmy Reese**. On June 17, 1932, a record crowd of 21,000 fans stormed the gates for the first game under the lights in Columbus. Syracuse experimented with night baseball with portable lights in 1930 and Indianapolis added lights to their ball park in 1932.

DURHAM BULLS

ROAD WARRIORS: Durham now is 22-17 on the road this season, with the only losing road trip May 1-8 at Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and Pawtucket, the co-leaders in the North Division (Durham went 2-6). Durham went 4-4 on its most recent road trip, and took three of four games in Buffalo. Before this past week, the Bulls last won a series in Buffalo in 1999.

HOME SWEET HOME?: The Bulls open an eight-game home stand tonight, and are hoping Durham will be a home-field edge against Norfolk and Lehigh Valley, the last place teams in the South and North Divisions. So far, Durham is 16-17 at home, but has played 27 of those 33 games against teams currently with winning records. The only team Durham has played at home that currently has a losing record is Charlotte (Durham is 3-3, splitting three two-game series).

STILL ON TOP: With the split of a regularly-scheduled contest and a suspended game on Tuesday at Buffalo, the Bulls are 1.5 games ahead of Richmond in the South Division. The Braves lost 6-5 and 5-1 to Charlotte on Tuesday. The Bulls have been in 1st place for all but one day since moving into a tie with Richmond atop the South Division standings on May 23.

RICH GETTING RICHER: When **Chris Richard** homered on Tuesday, it was the third straight game in which he had homered. Richard finished the last road trip in Buffalo and Rochester 12-31 (.390), with five homers and 11 RBI. Richard now has 13 homers and 42 RBI, 2nd on the club in both categories to **Joel Guzman**.

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS

500 AND COUNTING: **Trent Jewett** managed his 500th game with the Indianapolis Indians on Tuesday night. In three-plus seasons leading the Tribe, Jewett owns a 257-243 regular-season mark. He was honored by *Baseball America* as the International League's "Best Manager Prospect" in 2007.

WE WILL RUN ON YOU: Indianapolis leads the International League with 100 stolen bases. The Indians have paced the IL in thefts in each of the past three seasons (163 in 2007, 180 in 2006 and 163 in 2005). The Tribe has recorded 59 swipes over the last 34 contests (1.74 pg) while its opponents have tallied just 21 (0.62 pg). Indians OF **Nyjer Morgan** leads the International League in steals per game (0.51) and is tied for 4th in overall swipes with 19. The 27-year-old has registered 19 stolen bases in 22 attempts, including an 8-for-8 clip over the past six games.

PAULINO JUST PRODUCES: Indianapolis C **Ronny Paulino** is batting .410 (16-39) with four homers, seven doubles, one triple, 10 runs and 10 RBI in 10 Triple-A games since being optioned from Pittsburgh on June 7.

BEAM KEEPS HANGING ZEROS: Tribe RHP **T.J. Beam** has recorded an 0.89 ERA (2 ER in 20.2 IP) over his last 15 relief appearances. The 27-year-old is 2-1 with a 1.89 ERA and four saves in 25 games this season. He has yielded just a .196 batting average while walking 13 and striking out 39 in 38.0 innings.

LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS

PHILLIES FOUR-EVER: On Wednesday, the IronPigs announced a four-year extension of their Player Development Contract with the Philadelphia Phillies, maintaining the two clubs' affiliation through the 2012 season. The announcement was made by IronPigs General Manager **Kurt Landes** and Phillies Director, Minor Leagues, **Steve Noworyta** at Coca-Cola Park. The last two National League Most Valuable Players – 1B **Ryan Howard** (2006) and SS **Jimmy Rollins** (2007) – were products of the Phillies' Triple-A affiliates, as were former N.L. All-Stars 2B **Chase Utley** (2006-07), LHP **Cole Hamels** (2007), LHP **Randy Wolf** (2003), 3B **Scott Rolen** (2002) and RHP **Vincente Padilla** (2002). The list of former Major League standouts that came through the Phillies' Triple-A affiliates includes Hall of Famers 3B **Mike Schmidt** (1972, Eugene) and 2B **Ryne Sandberg** (1981, Oklahoma City) as well as five-time Phillies' N.L. All-Star SS **Larry Bowa** and three-time Phillies' All-Stars 3B **Richie Allen**, C **Bob Boone** and C **Darren Daulton**. Already this season, the IronPigs have sent two players to Philadelphia – OF **Chris Snelling** and OF **T.J. Bohn**.

BACK IN THE IL CELLAR: After spending the first 70 days of the season in last place in the IL, the IronPigs crawled ahead of Norfolk with a better winning percentage on June 13. The 'Pigs remained out of the cellar for three days, but are now back in the cellar after being swept by Pawtucket in their last series. The 'Pigs are now 3-27 (.100) against the Top 5 teams in the IL (SWB, SYR, LOU, PAW, TOL). Lehigh Valley has gone just 8-26 against the North Division.

BLACK MAGIC: LHP **Travis Blackley** -- who pitches tonight -- has turned in three consecutive 'quality starts' (his first 3 of 2008) and is 2-0, 2.84 in his last 3 GS. The IronPigs are 6-0 in the last six games that Blackley has started, all after he came off the DL (strained right groin) on May 19.

IT AIN'T EASY BEING GREEN?: RHP **Steve Green** has a scoreless streak of 9.0 IP. He has gone 2-0, 0.73 (24.2 IP, 2 ER) in his last 11 G and has retired 73 of last 93 batters faced (78.5%). On June 15, the Quebec native made a spot start -- his first since July 24, 2006 (after 81 consecutive relief appearances) and shutout the League's highest scoring offense, Pawtucket, in his 4.0 innings (1 H, 0 R, 1 BB, 6 K) -- retiring 12 of the 14 BF.

WHO'S HOT: C **Jason Jaramillo** has hit in his last 5 G (7-19, .368) and in 18 of his last 19 G (.409-0-7, 27-66, 12 R)... OF **Chris Snelling** has hit in his last 9 G (11-28, .393) and has reached base safely in all 13 G after Opening Day... 1B **Andy Tracy** has hit in his last 6 G (12-23) and in 14 of his last 17 G (26-58, .448-2-11) raising his AVG by 52 pts. He is batting .367 (22-60) with RISP... 3B **Brennan King** has hit in 19 of his last 24 G (28-85, .329-2-15) -- raising his AVG from .212 to .253. On defense, he went 46 consecutive games without an error until Friday... OF **Jon Knott** has hit safely in 9 of his last 11 G (13-39, .333-1-6, 4 2B)... INF **Mike Cervenkak** has hit in 27 of his last 31 G (.341-2-14, 42-123)... RHP **Matt Childers** is 3-0 with 4 SV and a 1.84 ERA (14.2 IP, 3 ER) in his last 11 G.

LOUISVILLE BATS

BARKER TIES LARSON'S GS RECORD: 1B **Kevin Barker** tied Brandon Larson's career grand slam mark with his fourth Louisville slam Tuesday afternoon in Rochester. Barker is also in 2nd place on the franchise's all-time home run list with 55, 15 behind leader Larson's 70. He is also in 7th place in runs scored in a Louisville uniform with 183, 23 runs behind sixth place's **Terry Bradshaw's** 206.

12 STRAIGHT: OF **Drew Anderson** has now hit in 12 consecutive games (June 4-pres) which is second-longest on the team behind INF **Andy Phillips'** 17-game hit streak (April 27-May 14). Anderson is batting .389 (21-54) with nine runs, five doubles, one triple, one home run and 12 RBI. Coincidentally he was outrighted off Cincinnati's 40-man roster on the day his hitting streak began and has raised his batting average from .239 to .274 during this time.

500: Last Friday night's game marked manager **Rick Sweet's** 500th in a Louisville uniform. He has now managed 504 games and is in sole possession of 2nd place of all-time games managed in franchise history. The record for most game managed in a Louisville uniform is held by current Scranton/WB skipper **Dave Miley**, who managed 541 games. Sweet trails Miley by 37 games and will break the record for most games managed in Louisville history on July 29 in Charlotte.

ALL-STAR INFO: The 2008 contest will mark the second time the Triple-A All-Star Game will be played in Louisville. In 1991, the National League affiliates defeated the American League affiliates, 3-1, before a crowd of over 20,000 at Cardinal Stadium. This year's events include:

1. *Rally's FanFest (July 13-15)* – 50,000 square feet of interactive baseball entertainment at the Kentucky International Convention Center! FanFest features activities and attractions for adults and children and player autograph sessions for memorabilia collectors.
2. *Papa John's Home Run Derby (July 14)* – One of the most exciting events of any All-Star celebration, the Home Run Derby will feature the most powerful sluggers from both Leagues blasting monster home runs into the night at Louisville Slugger Field.
3. *AAA All-Star Luncheon (July 16)* – The featured speaker of the All-Star Luncheon will be Louisville native, Paul Hornung. After winning the Heisman Trophy in 1956 at Notre Dame, Hornung went on to win the NFL MVP Award in 1960 and 1961 while capturing 4 NFL Championships with the Vince Lombardi-led Green Bay Packers. Hornung was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1986 and is clearly one of the most accomplished athletes to hail from Louisville.
4. *Meijer Triple-A All-Star Game (July 16)* – The top stars from the International League and the Pacific Coast League square off in a nationally televised game showcasing the stars of tomorrow.

NORFOLK TIDES

STILL STREAKING: With another hit Tuesday, Tides catcher **Omir Santos** extended his hitting streak to 20 games, which is the longest for Norfolk this season, as well as the longest in the International League this year. Over the 20-game stretch (which began on May 12), Santos has batted .403 (31-77) with nine runs scored and seven RBI, and he's collected eight multi-hit games over that span. Santos has upped his average from .203 to .312 over the streak, which is the longest Tides streak since Norfolk moved into Harbor Park in 1993. The longest hitting streak in franchise history is a 24-game stretch by **Gregg Jefferies**, set during the 1988 season.

HIT MAN: Tides infielder **Scott Moore** has hit safely in six straight games and 18 of his last 20, and the 24-year-old has hit .308 (26-82) with two home runs and 13 RBI over that 20-game stretch. Over those 20 games, Moore has steadily seen his average rise from .183 to .239.

WHAT A RELIEF: Over his last 15 outings, Tides reliever **Jim Miller** has allowed just two earned runs over 24.1 innings of work, good for a 0.74 ERA. The 26-year-old right-hander has allowed just 10 hits over those 24.1 innings, and he's held batters to a .120 average against (10-83) with 22 strikeouts over that span.

NOT A BAD TUESDAY: In Tuesday afternoon's victory over Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Tides outfielder **Chris Roberson** collected three outfield assists, throwing out runners at first base, second base and home plate. Roberson, who leads the League with 12 outfield assists this season, then capped his afternoon by hitting a walk-off home run in the bottom of the 10th inning to give Norfolk a 4-3 win.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX

VIEW FROM THE TOP: Pawtucket's recent run – winners of 6 of their last 7 games - has moved them into a tie for 1st place in the IL North with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees. This date of June 19 marks the latest Pawtucket has been in 1st place (or had a share of the division lead) in a season since they won the IL North in 2003. The PawSox (now at 44-30 on the year) have reached a season-high of 14 games over .500 for the first time since they ended that 2003 season with an 83-61 record.

MARKED IMPROVEMENT: The PawSox are currently 11 games better than they were last year at this point. Pawtucket (at 44-30) was 33-41 after 74 games last year – and then 33-42 on June 26 (T-4th, 8.0 GB). The PawSox are on pace to finish with 85 victories this season which would be a new franchise record. The club record is 83 wins in 2003 (83-61, 1st place).

DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS: As the Boston Celtics proved this week in winning their 17th NBA title, defense does indeed often win championships. The PawSox presently have the 3rd-best fielding pct. in the IL at .982 (48 errors in 2,672 total chances) behind Louisville and Columbus (.983) and 2nd to Columbus in fewest errors (Sox have 48 errors while Clippers have 45).

PULLING RANK: The PawSox are currently 1st in the International League in Team Batting (.270). The Sox are presently 3rd in Team ERA (3.74) after leading the League in that category at the end of May. The PawSox lead the IL in runs scored (390) and they are 2nd in both HR (94) and walks (277). Sox pitchers have allowed the 2nd-fewest hits in the League (603). Pawtucket has finished with the best ERA in the IL just once in franchise history back in 1999 when they posted a 4.01 ERA. Pawtucket has not led the IL in Team Batting since the League expanded to 14 teams in 1998.

CELEBRATING THE 2007 WORLD SERIES AT MCCOY: The PawSox, never shy about showcasing their affiliation with the World Champion Boston Red Sox who work 40 miles north of Pawtucket, RI, will celebrate the Red Sox 2007 World Series title in grand fashion this homestand with three different giveaway items for fans. The first comes tonight with a World Series Commemorative Baseball for the first 4,000 youngsters coming to McCoy. Next Monday (June 23) the first 3,000 fans – aged 14 & under – entering the ballpark will receive a Red Sox World Series #1 Finger, and a week from tonight (June 26) the first 3,000 fans will be given a Red Sox World Series Rally Towel.

RICHMOND BRAVES

TRADE WINDS BLOWING: Atlanta traded C **Sal Fasano** to Cleveland Thursday. Fasano hit .193 in 26 games but had the best percentage of opponents thrown out trying to steal of any IL catcher that faced more than one attempt (15-27, .556). The Braves were 14-9 in games started by Fasano. He will report to Cleveland and become the 12th R-Brave to earn a promotion to the big leagues this season. He will be replaced on the roster by **Ray Serrano**, promoted from Mississippi.

INSTANT IMPACT: RHP **Charlie Morton** makes his second big league start for Atlanta Thursday. He won his big league debut over the Los Angeles Angels Saturday. The Braves starting rotation vs. the Angels featured three pitchers who began the season with the R-Braves (Morton, **Jorge Campillo**, and **Jo-Jo Reyes**). OF **Brandon Jones**, promoted to Atlanta on June 11 is hitting .476 for the A-Braves. Eight members of Atlanta's current active roster have seen action in Richmond this season.

MOVABLE ROSTER: With the trade of Fasano, Richmond has made 70 roster moves in 73 games. The Braves have three players currently on the DL (**Francisley Bueno**, **Joe Borchard**, and **Wes Timmons**). They have hosted three players on MLB rehab assignments (**Mike Hampton**, **Omar Infante**, and **Mike Gonzalez**). The Braves have used 16 different starting pitchers, including four who've made their R-Braves debuts in the last 10 days. Eight current members of the R-Braves roster have been promoted from Double-A Mississippi. 11 Braves remain from the Opening Day roster.

ROCHESTER RED WINGS

CHICKS DIG THE LONG BALL: Outfielder **Garrett Jones** hit his seventh home run of the season Monday night (his 65th as a Red Wing). Jones is the first Rochester player to hit more than 60 home runs during his Red Wings career since **John Valle** hit 66 home runs from 1980-84. Jones is just one home run shy of tying **Luke Easter** and **John Valle** for 9th all-time (66 home runs) on the Red Wings home run list and 12 away from tying **Steve Bilko** for 8th all-time (77 home runs).

HOT WING: First baseman **Garrett Jones** has a nine-game hitting streak batting .395 (15-38) with three doubles, one home run, 10 RBI and five-multi-hit games. Jones has hit safely in 14 of his last 15 games batting .377 (23-61) with five doubles, two home runs, 13 RBI and eight multi-hit games. Jones was hitting .164 on May 10 but is hitting .308 (45-146) since.

TODAY'S HISTORY LESSON: Manager **Stan Cliburn** enters Thursday's game with a 193-176 record as manager of the Rochester Red Wings. Stan needs 7 wins to be only the sixth manager to compile 200 wins in his first three seasons since 1963. Since 1963 only **Joe Altobelli** (1971-73, 241 wins), **Greg Biagini** (1989-91, 237 wins), **Darrell Johnson** (1963-65, 230 wins), **Marv Foley** (1995-97, 228 wins) & **Phil Roof** (2003-05, 216 wins) have compiled 200 wins in their first three seasons as Red Wings manager.

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE YANKEES

GOING GREEN: Infielder **Nick Green** made the most of the Yankees recent eight game road trip. The infielder played in seven of eight games on SWB's trip to Richmond and Norfolk and he hit safely in all seven. The seven-game hit streak for Green is his personal high for the season and during the stretch he is hitting .357 (10-28). With the seven-game success Green has raised his batting average from .212 to .229.

WINNING THE GAMES WE SHOULD: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre has been in 1st place in the International League North (either alone or tied) for all but two days during the 2008 season. One of the big reasons for the team's success has been winning on the road and winning against teams with a sub .500 record. Away from PNC Field the Yankees have picked up 21 wins, and overall have amassed a 27-14 record against teams with a losing record. Against upper division foes, the Yankees are 17-16.

BETTER GRAB A PLAY BALL!: The Yankees new Play Ball! game program might be the best thing anyone entering PNC Field could pick up this season. Through June 18, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre has used 22 position players and 23 pitchers and has made a total of 89 transactions.

CARSON CONNECTING: **Matt Carson** hit a pair of homers for the Yankees in the first game of SWB's four game series at Norfolk on June 14, joining **Eric Duncan** as the only other player with a multi-homer game for the team in 2008. Duncan turned the trick at Charlotte back on April 18. The two-homer game for Carson was part of a season-best six game hitting streak which ended with an 0-4 effort against the Tides on the 16th. During the Yankees eight game trip to Virginia, Carson went 10-30 (.300) with 2 HR and 6 RBI in seven games.

SYRACUSE CHIEFS

PARRISH SETS RECORD: Left-handed pitcher **John Parrish** established a new Syracuse Chiefs record when he won his 10th consecutive game to start the season and now looks to break another record on Saturday when he goes for his 11th straight win, which would break the old mark of 10 set in 1963 by **Willie Smith** and in 1985 by **Stan Clarke**.

THIGPEN RETURNS: The Toronto Blue Jays optioned **Curtis Thigpen** to Syracuse on Monday June 16 when veteran **Greg Zaun** returned to Toronto after his rehab assignment in Syracuse. Thigpen will share catching duties with red hot **Erik Kratz** who leads the Chiefs with eight home runs.

CHIEFS RETURN FROM LONGEST ROAD TRIP: The Chiefs return from their longest road trip having gone 3-6 with two games lost to the schedule due to rain in Columbus. The Chiefs were actually up 5-0 in the 2nd inning in one of those games with home runs from **Greg Zaun** and **Wayne Lydon** wiped out.

TOLEDO MUD HENS

HENS IN THE BIGS: After coming to Toledo on MLB Rehab, RHP **Joel Zumaya**, RHP **Fernando Rodney** and OF **Clete Thomas** are on their way to the majors. Rodney rejoined the Tigers on June 16, while Zumaya and Thomas are expected to rejoin the team Friday, June 20. OF **Brent Clevlen**, 1B **Jeff Larish**, 2B **Michael Hollimon**, and LHP **Casey Fossom** are with Detroit right now. Clevlen, Larish, and Hollimon are a combined 12-70 (.171) with a HR, 8 RBI, and 7 runs scored.

WIN STREAK: The Hens hit a rough patch and fell out of 1st place for the first time in 47 days after losing on June 10, but Toledo won back-to-back games June 16 and June 17. Winning back-to-back games is the longest win streak since winning three straight June 1-3. Toledo has recaptured a share of 1st place.

ACES ARE WILD: Toledo's starting pitching has been on a tear. RHP **Virgil Vasquez** has had three consecutive quality starts and is 1-1, with a 2.57 ERA (21.0 IP, 6 ER, 12 K). Four of the currently slotted Toledo starters including RHPs **Yorman Bazardo**, Vasquez, **Lauren Gagnier**, and **Chris Lambert** have been on fire as of late. Since June 10, the quartet has a combined six starts with five quality starts with a 2.19 ERA (37.0 IP, 9 ER, 33 K).

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME: The Toledo Mud Hens are leading the International League in attendance. Fifth Third Field has seen 304,820 visitors over 43 games this season. There have been a total of 12 sellout crowds, bringing the total sellouts to 187 in the history of Fifth Third Field.