



International League News & Notes

August 28, 2008



BUFFALO BISONS

LINDEN GETS TEAM MVP: The Bisons named OF **Todd Linden** their Stan Barron Most Valuable Player for the 2008 season. Signed as a free agent by the Indians on May 26, the outfielder has hit .277 (85-307) and leads the Herd with 13 home runs, 51 walks, a .385 on-base percentage and a .472 slugging percentage. He's also 2nd in RBI (47) and runs scored (48), and 3rd in doubles (19) and extra-base hits (33). He's hit .325 (51-157, 41 RBI) with runners on base, .341 (31-91, 35 RBI) with runners in scoring position, and .417 (5-12, 10 RBI) with the bases loaded. Linden failed to reach base safely in just 12 of his 85 games with the team, and in back-to-back games only once all season (May 29-30).

JASON COOPER IS MR. BISON: No one has played more games in a Bisons uniform in the modern era than OF **Jason Cooper**. The fan-favorite passed Buffalo Baseball Hall of Famer C **Tom Prince** last week when he played in his 401st first game with the team. A late-season promotion in 2004, Cooper helped the Herd to the International League Governor's Cup Championship. In his five-year Bisons career, Cooper now ranks 1st in the modern era in games (406), 2nd in RBI (222), doubles (81) and triples (19), 3rd in runs scored (203) and walks (168), 5th in hits (329) and 6th in home runs (49). A standout off the field as well, Cooper is a three-time winner of the team's Community Service Award.

BULLY FOR THE BISONS PEN: Several Bisons relievers are closing out the season strong. RHP **Preston Larrison** has not allowed an earned run in his last 11 appearances, striking out 11 (11.1 IP, 1 OH). RHP **Bubbie Buzachero** has allowed just one run and six hits in his last 10 appearances (9.2 IP), a stretch that includes six saves. Mid-season All-Star LHP **Rich Rundles** has been unhittable since the break with a 0.77 ERA in 15 outings (11.2 IP, 7 H, 7 K). RHP **John Meloan** has posted a 2.84 ERA in 10 games since coming to the team in the **Casey Blake** trade with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS

TWO KNIGHTS NAMED TO IL POSTSEASON ALL-STAR TEAM: Knights 1B/DH **Brad Eldred** and INF/OF **Chris Getz** have been named to the IL Postseason All-Star Team. Eldred has been named the team's DH, with Getz named the team's utility player. Eldred, 28, is having a career year as he currently leads the IL in home runs with 35 and RBI with 100. Eldred missed a month of the season due to a fractured wrist. Getz, who turns 25 on Saturday, has split time between second base, shortstop, third base, and the outfield. Getz has also done a little bit of everything offensively, hitting .306 (7th in the IL) while posting career-highs in home runs (11) and RBI (51). This is the first time the Knights have received postseason honors since the 2006 season, when **Josh Fields** was named the third baseman, **Heath Phillips** the starting pitcher, and **Jorge Velandia** the shortstop.

LATEST ROSTER MOVES: INF **Chris Getz** was optioned to Charlotte from Chicago on Monday. RHP **Lance Broadway** was recalled by Chicago. Getz's contract was originally purchased by the White Sox back on August 10. While in Chicago, Getz went 2-7 with a RBI and one stolen base. Getz is hitting .306 for Charlotte in 108 games. Broadway leaves Charlotte with an 11-7 record and a 4.66 ERA. Broadway is 1-0 with a 3.18 ERA in two games with the White Sox this season.

TEAM WIN IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD: Knights Manager **Marc Bombard** was forced to use nearly his entire bullpen on Sunday when scheduled starting pitcher **Lance Broadway** was a late scratch. Bombard got great performances from RHP **Mike MacDougal**, LHP **Scott Sauerbeck**, RHP **Derek Rodriguez**, LHP **Boone Logan** and RHP **Franklyn German**. The five relievers combined for 10 innings, 4 hits, 1 run, and 12 strikeouts to lead the Knights to a 2-1 win over Norfolk.

COLUMBUS CLIPPERS

DAVIS DRIVING 'EM IN: **Leonard Davis** led the IL with 11 RBI over the week of August 18-24 and has a team-high 21 RBI in the month of August (**Larry Broadway** is 2nd with 9 RBI). He is the first Clipper this season to record as many as 20 RBI in a month and the first to do it since **Abraham Nunez** had 21 RBI in August of 2007. Davis currently ranks 4th among Nationals farmhands with 72 RBI between Potomac (37), Harrisburg (10) and Columbus (25).

JUST DOING HIS JOB: For the last week and a half, **Luis Jimenez** has been relegated to pinch-hit duty as he battles a sore right heel. He has gone 5-6 in his last six games as a pinch-hitter, raising his average from a season low of .294 to .330. He has the most pinch hits on the team (5).

SMASHING RECORDS: With five games left in the season, the Clippers can build on three records they have already set this year. Last night against Toledo, **Mike Hinckley** punched out **Timo Perez** giving the Clippers their 1,040th strikeout of the season to set a new franchise record (1,039 in 2001). The staff is on pace for 1,081 strikeouts for the season. Also yesterday, **Elijah Dukes** was sent back to Washington after completing his rehab assignment. Dukes' transaction was the 180th of the year, 25 more than the previous record (155 in 2006). On August 23, **Alberto Gonzalez** became the 70th different player to suit up for Columbus, six more than the previous record (64 in 2007).

DURHAM BULLS

PLAYOFF PICTURE: Durham has earned its seventh division title in 11 years, and eighth playoff appearance during that span. The 2001, 2005 and 2006 seasons are the only ones where Durham has not been in the IL postseason. Durham will meet Louisville in the first round of the postseason starting September 3 at Louisville Slugger Field. Durham was 5-3 against the Bats, 3-1 at home, 2-2 at Louisville Slugger Field. The first two games of that series will be in Kentucky, with the remainder at the DBAP.

THREE OVER: Durham is back to three games over .500 after falling 5-4 in 10 innings to Norfolk at Harbor Park last night. To have a winning season, the Bulls need to go 2-3 in the season's final five games. No International League division winner has ever had a sub-500 record. The last IL team to make the playoffs with a .500 mark was Syracuse (71-71) in 1994. Pawtucket made it with a losing mark (71-72) in 1992.

TOUGH RUN: This month (12-14) has been a tough one for Durham for many reasons. On August 17, **Joel Guzman** was lost (DL) to a right hamstring injury. The team also this month lost SS **Reid Brignac** to a left wrist injury (DL – August 7), and **Ben Zobrist**, **Justin Ruggiano** and **Juan Salas** to the Rays when **Carl Crawford**, **Evan Longoria** and **Troy Percival** were injured. Guzman is expected to return in the final series of the season against Charlotte, while Brignac will not.

COMING BACK BRONZE: RHP **Jeremy Cummings** got a win in his return Tuesday to the Bulls. He was part of the U.S. Olympic Team that won the bronze medal Saturday. Cummings allowed one run in 5 IP over 2 appearances with the US team. He's now 8-3 as a Bull.

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS

CLOSE CONTESTS: The Indians have been involved in a one-run contest in 13 of their last 19 games. The Tribe is now 25-31 in one-run games this season. The 31 losses are the most in all of Minor League Baseball this season, while the 25 wins rank 2nd in the International League behind Columbus' 26 victories. The Tribe went 17-21 in one-run contests a year ago.

WHAT A STRETCH FOR WALKER: Indians INF **Neil Walker** has reached base safely in 12 of his last 13 games. The 22-year-old is batting .294 (15-51) with six runs and nine RBI during the stretch. The Pirates number two prospect according to *Baseball America*, Walker also leads the Tribe with 16 home runs and 77 RBI on the season. The 16 home runs are a single season career-high for Walker and give him a total of 50 in his short Minor League career.

NEW FACES STEPPING UP BIG: Tribe INF **Luis Cruz** and RHP **Ross Ohlendorf** continue to provide top level performances during the month of August. Cruz, who was promoted to Indianapolis from Double-A Altoona on July 29, is batting .309 (29-94) with 14 runs and nine RBI during the month. His 29 hits are tied for the most on the team during the month, while his nine RBI ranks 3rd. While Cruz has been a spark plug for the offense, Ohlendorf has led the pitching staff over the season's final stretch. Acquired by Pittsburgh from the New York Yankees on July 28, Ohlendorf has gone 3-2 with a 2.78 ERA and 30 strikeouts in five starts during the month, with his three wins, 30 strikeouts, 35.2 innings and 0.57 WHIP pacing all Tribe starters.

WE WILL RUN ON YOU: Indianapolis leads the International League with 184 stolen bases. The swipes total is the most for the Tribe during the Victory Field era and ranks 8th in all of Minor League Baseball. The Indians, who also lead all of Triple-A Baseball in steals, have paced the IL in thefts in each of the past three seasons (163 in 2007, 180 in 2006 and 163 in 2005).

LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS

IN LIKE A LAMB, OUT LIKE A LAMB: The IronPigs started the season going 5-30, and have now gone 5-21 since July 31. Lehigh Valley did go 43-34 in between from May 9 through July 30.

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON: OF **Brandon Watson** continued his season-high hit streak (13 games, 24-58, .414-3-11, 3 2B, 12 R). He's also hit in 20 of his last 22 games (35-95, .368-5-17, 5 2B) and has multi-hit games in 7 of last 11 (21-50, .420-3-11). After not hitting a HR for 383 AB (back to July 26, 2007), Watson has clubbed 6 in his last 204 AB (since July 2) and 5 in his last 21 games (90 AB).

PREFECT OLYMPIANS: Neither RHP **Steve Green** nor LHP **R.J. Swindle** allowed an earned run while pitching for Team Canada in the Olympics. Green went 0-0, 0.00 (6.0 IP, 2 H, 0 R, 3 BB, 5 K) and Swindle finished 0-0, 0.00 (4.1 IP, 2 H, 1 R, 0 ER, 0 BB, 6 K). They have combined to pitch 6.2 scoreless innings upon their return to the IronPigs since August 25.

BACON BITS: The 'Pigs have scored first in 8 of their last 10 G but with just a 1-9 record -- blowing early leads of 1, 1, 3, 4, 3, 2 and 3. The 'Pigs are now just 37-25 (.597) when scoring first. The League average is .682 when scoring first... In the last 11 G, the LHV bullpen is 0-5, 8.04 (43.2 IP, 39 ER) with 4 BS. Previously, the LHV bullpen had been an impressive 10-6, 13 SV, 2.75 (144.0 IP, 44 ER) in the previous 41 G... IronPigs starters are just 1-5, 7.06 (51.0 IP, 40 ER) in the last 11 G... The 'Pigs need to go at least 3-3 in their last 6 G to pass Ottawa's record last season (55-88)... INF **Mike Cervenak** has 5 multi-hit G in his last 8 G (11-37, .297-2-5) and has hit in 19 of 23 G (35-98, .357-2-14, 9 2B)... C **Jason Jaramillo** has hit safely in 11 of his last 13 G (17-46, .370, 3 2B) and in 21 of 26 (33-100, .330-1-8). He is at a season-high .271.

LOUISVILLE BATS

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICK SWEET: Manager **Rick Sweet** was named the IL's Manager of the Year on Tuesday; it's the first time the manager for the Louisville franchise has been IL Manager of the Year. Sweet won the PCL's Manager of the Year award in 1994, a year after guiding the Tucson Toros to their second PCL Championship. After beginning his Louisville managerial career with a losing record (66-78, 2005), Sweet has reeled off three straight winning seasons, going 234-191 since 2006. At 301-269, he is now the all-time winningest manager in Louisville franchise history. Sweet surpassed **Dave Miley** (296-245) on Thursday, August 21, when the Bats clinched the IL West Division.

IL POST SEASON ALL-STAR TEAM: C **Ryan Hanigan** was named to the IL Postseason All-Star Team. Before being recalled by the Reds August 10, Hanigan batted .324 with four home runs and 35 RBI in 75 games with the Bats this season. He currently still has the second best percentage (.377) of throwing out would-be base stealers in the IL (behind **Chris Stewart** of Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, .411), and was recently named in *Baseball America's* Best Tools issue as being the best defensive catcher in the IL.

THREE BAGGERS: With **Danny Richar's** triple Saturday night, the Bats set a new franchise mark for triples in a season with 55, and are now sitting at 56 with OF **Shaun Cumberland's** triple Monday night. The previous franchise high was 54, which was set in 1998. **Drew T. Anderson** leads the Bats with eight triples on the season, which is a career high. Anderson is one triple away from tying **Chuck Carr** (1992) and **Tripp Cromer** (1994) for the fifth-most triples in a single season with nine. The franchise record is held by **Tito Landrum**, who had 12 in 1983. The 56 triples on the year also lead the IL; Rochester is 2nd with 44.

86 WINS: Monday night's 85th win broke the franchise record of 84 wins in a season which was set by the 2001 RiverBats (84-60) who went on to win the Governors' Cup Championship. On August 18, the Bats became only the second team in franchise history to record 80 wins in a season. At 86-53, the Bats would need to go 4-1 in their remaining five games to reach the 90-win mark.

NORFOLK TIDES

OSCAR-WORTHY PERFORMANCE: With just five games left on the IL schedule, Tides infielder **Oscar Salazar** is 2nd in the League with a .316 average, just .004 points behind Rochester's **Randy Ruiz**. If Salazar can overtake Ruiz (who is currently on Minnesota's 25-man roster), he would be the first Tides batter to lead the IL in batting average since **Todd Haney** accomplished the feat with a .345 average in 1998. Haney is just one of three Tides batters to have ever led the League in average, joining **Mike Vail** (.342 average in 1975) and **Randy Milligan** (.326 average in 1987). Salazar was named to the International League's Postseason All-Star Team earlier this week.

LEICESTER IS MORE: Tides reliever **Jon Leicester** has pitched tremendously this month, as he's posted a 0.57 ERA (1 ER, 15.2 IP) with one save in nine games. Leicester has struck out 20 while walking just two in August, and he's held opposing hitters to a .135 average against (7-52) this month. The 29-year-old opened the season in Norfolk's starting rotation and was 2-8 with a 6.93 ERA in 13 starts, but he's since gone 1-0 with a 2.48 ERA in 24 relief outings.

TERRIFIC TORRES: With two more hits yesterday, **Eider Torres** picked up his 11th multi-hit game this month, upping his average for August to .367 (36-98). Torres is 7th in the IL with a .307 average for the season, and the 25-year-old leads IL second baseman with a .990 fielding percentage (4 errors, 401 total chances). He's also stolen 28 bases this year, the third-most among Orioles minor leaguers.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX

HONORABLE MENTION: The Pawtucket Red Sox – who have clinched a playoff spot in the 2008 International League Governors' Cup Playoffs and will take on the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees next Wednesday night (most likely at McCoy Stadium for Games 1 & 2 on Sept. 3 & Sept. 4) – received some more good news earlier this week with the announcement of the IL Postseason All-Star Team and year-end award winners. For the first time in franchise-history (and the first time in 13 years in the League) teammates have earned IL MVP honors (PawSox 1B/OF **Jeff Bailey**) and IL Most Valuable Pitcher honors (PawSox RHP **Charlie Zink**). The PawSox also placed four players on the year-end IL All-Star team (matching their club-record from the 1979 season and the most in the League since 2002) as Zink is the starting pitcher, Bailey and teammate **Chris Carter** are outfielders on the squad, and **Joe Thurston** is the IL All-Star second baseman.

SELECT COMPANY: **Jeff Bailey** becomes the first PawSox MVP in 22 years since 1B **Pat Dodson** won the IL MVP in 1986. Other PawSox MVPs include: **Jim Rice** in 1974, **Ted Cox** in 1977, **Gary Allenson** in 1978, and **Dave Stapleton** in 1979. **Charlie Zink** becomes the first PawSox to earn Most Valuable Pitcher honors since **Bronson Arroyo** in 2003. Other PawSox Most Valuable Pitchers include: **Dick Pole** in 1973, **Bob Ojeda** in 1981, **Aaron Sele** in 1993, and **Brian Rose** in 1997. The last teammates to cop both MVP and Most Valuable Pitcher awards in the same season were OF **Butch Huskey** and RHP **Jason Istringhausen** of Norfolk in 1995. Prior to this season the last PawSox All-Star was INF **Dustin Pedroia** in 2006. This year's crop of four PawSox All-Stars matches the most Pawtucket has ever placed on the team – in 1979 the PawSox also had four All-Stars including: SS **Glenn Hoffman**, 3B **Dave Stapleton**, OF **Sam Bowen**, and DH **Dave Koza**.

FINAL FOUR FOR A RECORD: The PawSox – who are enjoying their final off-day of the regular-season today before getting another next Tuesday in between the end of the regular-season and the start of the playoffs next Wednesday - are now 83-56 on the season to tie their franchise-record for most victories in a season (the 2003 PawSox went 83-61). The PawSox have four chances during a wrap-around Labor Day weekend 4-game homestand (two with Buffalo on Fri. & Sat. and two more with Lehigh Valley on Sun. & Mon.) to win at least one more game and set a new-club record for victories in a single-season. Pawtucket has already guaranteed themselves their highest-winning percentage ever as even if they lose all of their final four games they would still finish 83-60 which would be a .580 winning pct. (better than the previous record of .579 set in 1978).

ALMOST PERFECT VS. THE PIGS: The PawSox won the first nine games (ever) vs. Lehigh Valley this season before losing on July 5 at McCoy Stadium, 5-2. That is their only loss vs. the IronPigs thus far as the Sox are now 13-1 vs. Lehigh Valley on the season with two meetings still remaining during the final two days of the regular-season. Pawtucket swept a 4-game series from the IronPigs at McCoy from April 7-10 and then did the trick again in their first-ever visit to Allentown, PA as the Sox swept another 4-game set vs. Lehigh Valley from June 14-17. The clubs met on July 4 & 5 for a 2-game split in Pawtucket. This week the PawSox improved to 8-0 all-time at Coca-Cola Park when they completed another 4-game sweep in Lehigh Valley (winning the final two games the past two nights by 11-4 and 14-4 scores).

RICHMOND BRAVES

ANDERSON'S WORLD: OF **Josh Anderson** celebrated his being named to the International League All Star team with a re-call to Atlanta Wednesday. Anderson, who had an International League season-high and Richmond club-record 27 game hitting streak end last Friday, is back with Atlanta for the second time this season. He hit .314 with the R-Braves (4th in the IL) and stole 42 bases (3rd in the IL).

SHUTTING THE DOOR: Richmond is 14-11 in August. The Braves are enjoying their best month since April when they were 14-11. A key factor in the Braves resurgence has been the work of their relief pitchers. The Braves bullpen has worked 13 consecutive scoreless innings over the last three games. Braves relievers have allowed just one run in their last 24.1 innings. **Jorge Julio** has turned into a dominant closer for the Braves. He has worked 13 straight scoreless outings over 14.1 innings in August, while notching seven saves in seven opportunities.

RAIN, RAIN, GO-AWAY: The Braves were rained out Wednesday. It was their sixth home rain out of the season, the most in the IL (Buffalo has lost five dates this season). The six home dates lost is the most in a season for the Braves since 2004 when they lost 15 dates to unplayable field conditions at The Diamond. The Braves have been rained out on the road twice this season. Charlotte has been Richmond's opponent for three of the Braves six home dates lost to rain.

ROCHESTER RED WINGS

KING OF THE HILL: Infielder **Randy Ruiz**, who was promoted to Minnesota on August 1, is currently the IL batting leader with a .320 batting average. If Ruiz wins he would become only the second Red Wing (outfielder **Jason Kubel** in 2004) to win the IL batting title since 1988 when **Steve Finley** captured the crown with a .314 batting average. Ruiz would be the first right-handed Rochester hitter to win the IL batting title since infielder **Rich Dauer** in 1976.

DOROTHY WAS RIGHT!: The Red Wings have played really well at Frontier Field this season (43-25 record). Rochester has the 2nd-best home record in the International League (Pawtucket has a 44-24 record). The Red Wings didn't have much luck away from Frontier Field this season finishing with a 28-44 road record (2nd-worst road record in the International League behind only Lehigh Valley's 24-45 record). It is the Wings best home record since 1997 when Rochester went 49-22.

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE YANKEES

DUNCAN'S DOZEN: **Shelly Duncan** extended his season-high hit streak with SWB to 12 straight games with a single in his first at-bat off of **Bryan Bullington** on Wednesday night. **Juan Miranda's** '08 season-high 13-game hit streak is up next for Duncan and **Alberto Gonzalez's** SWB Yankees best 15-game hitting streak set in 2007. During his recent tear Duncan is hitting .327 (16-49) with 12 R, 4 2B, 3 HR, and 13 RBI, and has raised his average from .214 to .243.

GO GREEN: **Nick Green** picked up another 2-4 night including his 11th HR of the season, a solo shot to right center. With the multi-hit night the Yankees shortstop established a new season-high by hitting safely in his ninth straight game. Green had previously hit in eight straight games from June 11-19. In his last four games vs. the Bisons, Green is 9-15 (.600), compared to his first 11 games against Buffalo where he was hitting just .083 (3-36). Over the last nine games, Green has raised his average from .211 to .232 and is hitting .441 (15-34) with 7 R, 2 2B, 2 HR, and 6 RBI.

ROAD WARRIORS: The Yankees picked up their 41st road win of the season on Wednesday night. With six games to play on the team's final road trip (one of the DH games in Syracuse on August 31 will be a home game) the Yankees could finish as the best road team in franchise history. The 2002 SWB Red Barons team finished 45-27 away from PNC Field (then known as Lackawanna County Stadium).

CELEBRATING THE CONCEPT OF TEAM: Over the last two seasons, no team in Triple-A Baseball has won more games than the SWB Yankees 170. Heading into Thursday's game at Buffalo, the Yankees have the best record in Triple-A Baseball and the second highest win total in all of Minor League Baseball. Despite the two seasons of tremendous success, not one SWB Yankees player has been named to the IL Postseason All-Star Team in either season, although **Dave Miley** was named IL Manager of the year in 2007. With at least the IL Wild Card in hand, the Yankees now have their sights set on winning the North Division for the second consecutive season. SWB has a 3.5 game lead over Pawtucket with six games remaining. The Yankees will play a full schedule of 144 games while Pawtucket will play 143 and have their final off day of the season today. The magic number for the Yankees to clinch the division is two.

SYRACUSE CHIEFS

THREE CHIEFS PITCHERS REACH 100: For the first time in 16 years three Chiefs pitchers, **Bill Murphy**, **David Purcey**, and **John Parrish**, recorded at least 100 strikeouts during the season. The last time it happened, **Doug Linton**, **Al Leiter**, and **Wayne Edwards** turned the trick. Both Purcey and Parrish are currently with Toronto.

ADAMS STAYS HOT: **Russ Adams** has continued to maintain a .400 batting average during this past month by hitting in 23 of his last 25 games. Adams is 38 for his last 95 at-bats with 14 RBI.

MARCUM AND MENCH JOIN CHIEFS: The Toronto Blue Jays have optioned right-handed pitcher **Shaun Marcum** and outfielder **Kevin Mench** to Syracuse for the final week of the season. Mench played in 13 games with the Chiefs from June 22-July 10, while Marcum last pitched for the Chiefs in 2006.

CECIL SHUTS DOWN BISONS: Chiefs pitcher **Brett Cecil** tossed seven no-hit innings against Buffalo on August 23, but unfortunately it was a 9-inning game and his pitch count was at 90. Cecil was relieved by **Jordan De Jong** who gave up a 1-out hit in the 8th, and he lost the win when **Jonah Bayliss** gave up a grand slam home run in the top of the 9th to **Chris Gimenez**. The Chiefs however rallied with 2 runs in the bottom of the 9th to defeat Buffalo 5-4.

TOLEDO MUD HENS

STEALING HISTORY: OF **Freddy Guzman** broke in to the Mud Hens' record books on Sunday night. With his two stolen bases in the game, Guzman set the Mud Hens Modern Era stolen base record with 54. The previous record was 53, set by **Tack Wilson** in 1983. The All-Time stolen base record is 80, held by **Jeremiah McDonough** (1899). Guzman added one more stolen base on Monday, so the record is now 55. He has accumulated 70 stolen bases this season (15 with Erie) – the fifth time in six seasons he has swiped 55 or more.

ANOTHER FREDDY: RHP **Freddy Garcia** is the scheduled starter for the Mud Hens on Thursday against the Clippers. He was a Major League All-Star with the Seattle Mariners in 2001 and 2002, finished 3rd in voting for the AL Cy Young in 2001 and was a member of the 2005 World Series champion Chicago White Sox. Garcia agreed to a Minor League contract with Detroit, with hopes to join the Tigers' roster down the stretch. The righty made one start with Class-A Lakeland on August 23 where he went 2.0 innings and gave up no runs on three hits, one walk and one strikeout.

RECORD BREAKING: The Mud Hens are approaching and breaking some single-season team records and milestones. Hens' batters have struck out a total of 1,160 times this season; the all-time record is 1,194 (2006). Toledo's pitching staff has struck out 1,018 batters; the franchise record is 1,036 (2005). The Hens are 2nd in the IL in home runs with 170. The Hens record of 176 was set in 1999.

VICTORIOUS VAZQUEZ: RHP **Virgil Vasquez** has won his last four straight starts. It all started with a complete game shutout on August 11 versus Norfolk. In that start, he allowed four hits while striking out six batters. Over his last four starts, Vasquez has thrown 25.2 innings, giving up 14 earned runs while striking out eight batters.