



# International League News & Notes

May 14, 2009



## **BUFFALO BISON** ([www.Bisons.com](http://www.Bisons.com))

**HEAVEN SENT:** OF **Angel Pagan** made quite the first impression with the Bisons this week. Pagan joined the Herd on a Major League rehab assignment on Tuesday and hit a two-out, two-run walk-off triple in the bottom of the 11<sup>th</sup> inning of a 4-3 win over Gwinnett. Pagan also threw out a runner at the plate in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning when the game was tied at one. Pagan had surgery on March 11 to have bone spur removed from his right elbow. He hit .275 (25-91) with 13 RBI and four stolen bases in 31 games with the Mets last season.

**THE REY TO GO:** INF **Argenis Reyes** has emerged as one of the toughest outs in the Bisons lineup. The 26-year-old now leads the Bisons with a .296 batting average while his .412 on-base mark is the 10<sup>th</sup>-best in the International League. Reyes has drawn a Bisons team-high 14 walks. A solid all-around player, Reyes is also tied for the Bisons team-lead with five stolen bases and currently ranks as the best fielding second baseman in the entire International League (.991 %, 1E, 109 TC).

**STARTING STRONG:** The Bisons are 6-7 so far this month, due in large part to their starting pitchers. In the last 14 games, the Herd rotation has posted a 2.57 ERA. The group has as many strikeouts (65) as hits allowed (65) and has combined for nine quality starts in the last 14 games. Highlights of the great stretch have been RHP **Dillon Gee's** complete game in the first game of a doubleheader on May 2 against Louisville, RHP **Brandon Knight's** nine strikeouts in seven shutout innings to beat the Bats a day later and two quality starts from MLB rehabber, RHP **Tim Redding** (13.0 IP, 13 H, 4 R, 9 K).

## **CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS** ([www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com))

**EVERYBODY CLOSES:** **Derek Rodriguez** earned his first save of the season in Tuesday night's victory over Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. He is the fifth different Knights pitcher to earn a save this season. The Knights have had 7 different pitchers in save situations. **Jon Link** leads the team with three saves, followed by **Adam Russell** with 2, and **Jack Egbert**, **Jimmy Gobble**, and Rodriguez with one apiece.

**WINNING WHISLER:** LHP **Wes Whisler** picked up his fourth win of the season Tuesday night. Whisler pitched 7 innings and did not allow a run. It was the second time the Knights pitching staff combined with Whisler for a shutout. Whisler's 1.76 ERA is the 5<sup>th</sup>-best in the League. The win was Whisler's 16<sup>th</sup> career International League victory. It was also Whisler's third consecutive win this season.

## **COLUMBUS CLIPPERS** ([www.ClippersBaseball.com](http://www.ClippersBaseball.com))

**GOOD GLOVE WORK:** After playing flawlessly on Opening Day, the Clippers went on to make an error in 10 consecutive games (15 total errors) to drop to dead last in the League in fielding percentage. In the last 14 games, the Clippers have made only two defensive miscues to climb into a tie for 6<sup>th</sup> with a .979 fielding percentage. The Clippers recently played 59 errorless innings over nine games between **George Lombard's** fielding error in the 2<sup>nd</sup> on May 3 at Durham and **Jack Cassel's** errant throw in the 3<sup>rd</sup> on Monday. In the past 14 games, those are the only two errors committed by Columbus.

**STOPPING THE RUN:** In the last 17 games, opponents have attempted only six steals against the Clippers and have been thrown out on four of those attempts. **Wyatt Toregas**, currently the IL leader with a 50% CS rate (five of 10), has gunned down three of four in that time period. As a team, the Clippers rank 7<sup>th</sup> in the League with a 28.6% CS rate (eight of 28). The last time an opposing player attempted a steal was in Game 1 of a doubleheader on May 5 at Norfolk, as **Justin Christian** was successful against Toregas.

**OFFENSE OUT LAPORTA:** Since **Matt LaPorta** (.333, 5 HR, 14 RBI) and **Luis Valbuena** (.321, 3 HR, 13 RBI) departed for Cleveland 11 games ago, the Clippers have struggled to score runs (5.3 runs per game before, 3.5 runs per game after). They have suffered their first two shutouts of the season and are hitting just .248 (81-327) with a .355 slugging percentage (3 HR). Collectively, the team went 220 at bats between **Andy Marte's** HR on May 2 at Durham and **Wes Hodges' HR** on Sunday (Hodges HR was the first out of the #3 spot in the order this season). The team batting average has tumbled from .292 to .278, while the team slugging has dropped from .451 to .422. Also in the past 11 games, they are hitting just .233 (20-86) with runners in scoring position, compared to .298 (53-178) in the first 22 games of the season.

## **DURHAM BULLS** ([www.DurhamBulls.com](http://www.DurhamBulls.com))

**MAKING HISTORY:** **Justin Ruggiano** hit three homers Friday for the Bulls in a 7-0 win over Gwinnett. It was just the second three-homer game for Durham at the Triple-A level (the Bulls became a Triple-A team in 1998). Catcher **Pete LaForest** homered three times on June 21, 2005 at Pawtucket. It was Ruggiano's first three-homer game as a professional.

**LOST LEADS AND LONG BALLS:** On Tuesday the Bulls lost a four-run lead in the 9<sup>th</sup> against Louisville as the Bats scored five times in a 7-6 win over Durham. It was the largest lead the Bulls have lost in a game this season. Durham bounced back yesterday with a 4-3 come-from-behind victory over Louisville, as **Jon Weber** and **Chris Richard** hit two-run homers in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively, to erase a 3-0 deficit. All four of Durham's runs last night came via the home run. The Bulls now have 36, and are tied with tonight's opponent, Louisville, for the league lead in that category.

**DURHAM DEBUT:** **Joe Dillon** made his Bulls debut last night at third base, and was 0-2 with a run scored. He was the player to be named later in the **Adam Kennedy** trade with Oakland. Dillon was hit by a **Homer Bailey** pitch in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, and scored on the next pitch, as Richard homered to right-center to give Durham the lead. Reliever **Joe Bateman** (1-0) pitched in Durham for the first time last night, and pitched 1.1 scoreless innings.

**FALLING BEHIND:** In 33 games, the Bulls have scored first just 14 times, including six times in 17 home games. Durham is 13-1 when it scores first, 6-0 at home, and is 6-13 when the opponent scores first. The Bulls are a respectable 5-6 when the opponent scores first at the DBAP, including a win last night.

## **GWINNETT BRAVES** ([www.GwinnettBraves.com](http://www.GwinnettBraves.com))

**MORE MORTON:** **Charlie Morton** has pitched to a 3-1 record with a 1.33 ERA (27.0 IP, 4 ER) in his last four starts and hasn't allowed more than one earned run in any of those starts. He was charged with his second loss of the season on May 3 at Pawtucket after he allowed just one earned run on two hits in seven innings. In his start on May 8, Charlie pitched his season high and tied a team season-high with 8.0 innings on the mound. He became the first G-Brave to pass the 100-pitch plateau. In his last start, on Wednesday night, Charlie pitched 7.0 innings to win his fourth game of the year. He's now 4-2 with a 3.07 ERA.

**MAGNIFICENT MEDLEN:** Gwinnett right-hander **Kris Medlen** pitched 6 2/3 scoreless innings on Monday to lead the G-Braves past the Durham Bulls, 4-0. It was his fifth win of the year and put him in a four-way tie atop the International League for most wins. Medlen, who hasn't allowed a run in his last 21.0 innings on the mound, leads the League with a 0.96 ERA. He hasn't allowed a run since the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning of the G-Braves' April 25 win vs. Charlotte. Medlen maintained his 2<sup>nd</sup>-place strikeout total (44), now only 13 behind teammate **Tommy Hanson**. In the month of May, Medlen boasts a 3-0 record with a 0.00 ERA in four starts (19.2 IP).

**LET'S GET IT STARTED:** Gwinnett starters have pitched to a 2.48 ERA (170.1IP, 47ER) and have struck out 176 batters while walking just 60 this season. G-Braves starters have not allowed more than one earned run in 15 of the team's last 17 games, or in 21 of 33 games this season. Gwinnett's 2.63 team ERA leads the League.

**UN-COOL:** The Gwinnett Braves allowed four unearned runs in Tuesday's 4-3 loss at Buffalo. The G-Braves have allowed a League-high 30 unearned runs this season. There are only three other teams with 20 or more unearned runs. Buffalo has allowed 17 unearned runs while the Rochester Red Wings have allowed a League-low 8 unearned runs. Gwinnett is 0-10 when allowing an unearned run (14-8 without unearned runs). Prior to last Tuesday, the G-Braves had gone six games without allowing an unearned run (charged to **Luis Valdez** in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning on May 5 vs. Syracuse, an 8-1 loss). Gwinnett played seven-straight games without an unearned run from April 11-17. Valdez, charged with three of the four unearned runs on Tuesday, has allowed 12 runs, eight of which have been unearned. **Jerome Gamble** (now with Double-A Mississippi) was pegged for 16 runs, 12 of which were unearned runs, in five games at Gwinnett. Eight Gwinnett pitchers have had unearned runs scored on them this season.

## **INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS** ([www.IndyIndians.com](http://www.IndyIndians.com))

**CLOSE CONTESTS:** 15 of the Indians' 31 contests so far this season have been decided by two runs or less. The Tribe is 5-4 in one-run games this season and 3-3 in contests decided by two runs. Last season the Tribe was involved in the most one-run games in all of Minor League baseball as they posted a 26-31 record in one-run affairs with their 31 losses tied for the most in all of the Minor Leagues, and their 26 wins tying them for the most in the International League.

**TANDEM AT THE TOP:** No one may be as happy to see INF **Brian Bixler** back in the Indianapolis Indians lineup as CF **Andrew McCutchen**. In the 16 games in which Bixler has batted second behind McCutchen in the Indians' lineup, the Tribe outfielder is batting .282, has driven in nine of his 12 runs, collected 26 of 34 hits, recorded six of his nine triples, and scored 20 of his 29 runs. In the 14 games in which Bixler was in Pittsburgh, McCutchen saw a significant decrease in his production as he batted just .160 with eight hits and three RBI.

**PEARCE CONTINUES TO POUND:** 1B **Steve Pearce** has been ripping it up for the Tribe as of late. The right-handed slugger has been especially hot in the month of May hitting .313 (15-48) with three HR and 11 RBI in 14 games. The slugger now leads the Indians in home runs (6) and RBI (25) and ranks among the best in the International League with runners in scoring position, posting a .448 average (13-29) and 17 RBI. Pearce is also having great success on the road this season as he is hitting .382 (21-55) with three HR and 15 RBI in 14 games versus his .172 average (10-58) with three home runs and 10 RBI in 17 games at Victory Field.

**TRIPLE TREND:** On Tuesday night, May 12, CF **Andrew McCutchen** collected his International League leading eighth triple of the season. At the time, McCutchen had doubled the amount of three-baggers of his closest competition in the IL. McCutchen has already doubled his previous single season high of four triples in a season (2005 & 2006) and is on pace to equal his career total entering 2009 (14 in four seasons). The triple for McCutchen also propelled the Indians into 1<sup>st</sup> in the International League with 14 team triples.

## **LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS** ([www.IronPigsBaseball.com](http://www.IronPigsBaseball.com))

**WHO'S HOT (BATTERS):** After a 3-28 skid, INF **Pablo Ozuna** has hit safely in his last 8 G (10-29, .345-0-2)... OF **Rich Thompson** snapped his 2009 LHV-high, 9-G hit streak Sunday; but has hit in 11 of his last 12 G (16-52, .308-0-6, 7 2B, 2 3B, 12 R, 5 SB). He is a perfect 9-9 in SB (100%) this season and is now 34-36 (94%) in his LHV career... INF **Mike Cervenak's** franchise record 22-game streak of reaching base safely came to an end Monday (0-4); but he has hit in 11 of his last 14 G (20-55, .364-1-12, 7 R); including 6 multi-hit G. He is 9 for last 18 w/ RISP (.500)... In his last 20 G, OF **John Mayberry** is batting .289-4-17 (22-76, 7 2B, 7 BB)... OF **Jason Ellison** has hit safely in 7 of last 8 GS (9-27, .333, 3 2B).

**WHO'S HOT (PITCHERS):** RHP **Dave Borkowski** has a current 13.0 scoreless IP streak (6+ G, 0-0, 8 H, 6 BB, 6 K) -- now the longest by any 'Pig in 2009. He has not been scored upon in his last 6 G (12.2 IP) after allowing runs in first 3 G (5 IP, 8 ER)... RHP **Tyler Walker** (on DL) has a season-starting 11.0 scoreless IP streak in his first 6 G. He has only allowed four batters to reach safely: 2 1Bs (including a hit-and-run dribbler), a BB and a HB. He's retired 32 of 37 BF (86.4%)... RHP **Jason Anderson** has allowed just 1 R in his last 6 G (8.0 IP). Combined with Reading stats, he had a personal 12.1 scoreless IP streak... RHP **Mike Kopllove** hasn't allowed an ER in his last 11 G (1-1, 2 SV, 2 H, 14.1 IP, 10 H, 5 R, 8 BB, 17 K).

**COUNTDOWN TO 1,500:** 'Pigs skipper **Dave Huppert** is up to 1,494 career MiLB wins -- 3<sup>rd</sup>-most amongst all active managers behind Round Rock's **Marc Bombard** [entered season with 1,709] and Orem's **Tom Kotchman** [entered with 1,542]. Unofficially, the record for Minor League wins is held by **Stan Wasiak** with 2,530 from 1950-1986; Huppert would need 1,824 needed to crack the all-time Top 20.

**KING LEHR!** Lehigh Valley did not have an IL Pitcher of the Week in 2008, but RHP **Justin Lehr** has become the League's first repeat winner in 2009. He was named Pitcher of Week for May 4-10 (2-0, 1.35, SHO, 13.1 IP, 12 H, 2 ER). The IL's first five-game winner this season, Lehr earned two victories during the week. He tossed a 7.0-inning shutout Tuesday against Buffalo in G1 of a doubleheader, limiting the Bisons to just three hits and two walks while striking out four. It was just the second shutout in the IL so far this season (**Homer Bailey**, Louisville; May 2 @ BUF). Lehr's fifth win came Sunday at Toledo. He pitched 6.1 solid innings as the IronPigs went on to win 5-3. It was the fourth "quality start" in six outings for Lehr, who owns more than 1/3 of LHV's 14 victories. In his IL career, Lehr is now 11-3, 2.36 (99.0 IP, 26 ER) in 22 G, 14 GS.

## **LOUISVILLE BATS ([www.BatsBaseball.com](http://www.BatsBaseball.com))**

**STUBBS IS ON FIRE:** OF **Drew Stubbs**, who was named the IL Batter of the Week for the period of May 4-10, has been absolutely on fire at the plate. Stubbs hit .423 for the week while leading the IL with five doubles and six stolen bases in seven attempts. He had four straight multi-hit games (May 7-10) and doubled home the winning run in the team's 3-2 win over SWB Saturday night. Stubbs is currently on a season-high, nine-game hitting streak (.417, 15-36), which is tied for the second longest on the team this season. He has also hit safely in 16 of his last 19 games (April 23-pres), compiling a .400 (28-70) average with six runs, 12 doubles, 11 stolen bases and nine runs batted in during that stretch. In those 19 games he has raised his average from .179 to it's current mark of .330.

**BATS & REDS BOTH IN FIRST:** With last night's 10-3 win at Arizona, the Cincinnati Reds moved into a three-way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the National League Central Division with the St. Louis Cardinals and Milwaukee Brewers and joined the Louisville Bats, who are also atop their division. The Bats currently lead the International League West Division by 3.0 games over the Toledo Mud Hens. Both the Reds and the Bats are in 1<sup>st</sup> place, with more than a month in the books, for the first time since June 17, 2002. Louisville finished the 2002 season 2<sup>nd</sup> in the IL West with a 79-65 record, 2.0 games behind Toledo while Cincinnati finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 19.0 games back of the St. Louis Cardinals with a 78-84 mark.

**COME-BACK KIDS:** Tuesday night's thrilling, come-from-behind victory was the team's fifth of the season and their five-run 9<sup>th</sup> inning was the most runs scored in one inning all season. The win was their fourth in a row at the time and the Bats have won five of their last seven games (May 7-pres) after dropping six of eight (April 28-May 6).

**HANG THOSE ZEROS:** Bats pitchers held the IL's best offensive team (SWB) to 26.1 consecutive scoreless innings (May 9-11). The Louisville staff had a 1.42 ERA over the four-game series (13 R, 6 ER, 38.0 IP) and held the Yankees to a paltry .199 (28-141) batting average. SWB went into the series with a .311 average and left Louisville batting .296 on the season.

## **NORFOLK TIDES ([www.NorfolkTides.com](http://www.NorfolkTides.com))**

**REIMOLD ROLLING TO BALTIMORE:** After last night's win vs. Syracuse, Tides outfielder **Nolan Reimold** was recalled to Baltimore and the 25-year-old is set to make his Major League debut tonight at Kansas City. Reimold was leading the International League with a .394 batting average and he also ranked among the top five in the IL in on-base percentage (1<sup>st</sup>, .485), slugging percentage (1<sup>st</sup>, .743), extra-base hits (1<sup>st</sup>, 20), home runs (2<sup>nd</sup>, 9), hits (T-3<sup>rd</sup>, 43), and RBI (4<sup>th</sup>, 27).

**MILLER TIME:** **Jim Miller** has converted each of his eight save opportunities this season, a total that leads the International League. Miller also recorded a save in each of his final eight opportunities of the 2008 season, giving him 16 straight save conversions in a Norfolk uniform. The 27-year-old right-hander has allowed just one earned run over his last 13 outings, and he's posted a 0.71 ERA (1 ER, 12.2 IP) over that stretch. Miller has 18 career saves in a Norfolk uniform, and if he were to record two more saves with Norfolk he would move into a tie for 10<sup>th</sup> on the Tides' all-time list.

**FAST STARTS:** The Tides enter play tonight having outscored their opponents 27-11 in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning. In fact, Norfolk has scored first in 23 of their 32 games thus far, going 19-4 in those contests. Only Pawtucket has scored first as often than the Tides this season, as the Red Sox have plated the first run in 23 of their 32 contests.

## **PAWTUCKET RED SOX ([www.PawSox.com](http://www.PawSox.com))**

**HEN PECKED:** The Pawtucket Red Sox have played six games against the Toledo Mud Hens this season and have held the Hens to 1 run or less in all six games (going 5-1). The Sox won the first five meetings of the season-series by scores of 2-1, 4-0, 2-1, 8-1, and 2-1 before suffering a 1-0 loss in 10-innings yesterday in Toledo. The teams play again tonight and tomorrow night in Toledo with Boston Red Sox RHP **Daisuke Matsuzaka** making his third rehab start for the PawSox tomorrow night (he has not allowed a run in 6.2 innings in his first two rehab starts thus far). PawSox pitchers are 5-1 with a 0.67 ERA vs. Toledo in 2009 (4 ER in 54 IP). Sox pitchers have held Toledo hitters to a .182 batting average (35-192) as Pawtucket hurlers have posted the following line vs. the Hens – 54 IP, 35 H, 5 R, 4 ER, 19 BB, 59 SO. Sox batters are hitting only .200 vs. the Mud Hens themselves (37-185) but good enough to out-score Toledo 18-5.

**PITCHING IN:** PawSox pitchers have allowed just 17 runs in their last 11 games (1-0, 2-1, 4-0, 2-1, 8-1, and 4-0 wins followed by 7-2 and 4-1 losses, then 9-1 and 2-1 triumphs before the 1-0 loss yesterday). Pawtucket's current 2.64 ERA is just behind Gwinnett (2.63) for the best in the International League. Pawtucket pitchers have allowed 5 or fewer hits in a game 12 times already this season (in 32 games) including three 2-hitters (April 10 in a 9-0 win at Buffalo, May 6 in a 2-1 win vs. Toledo, and May 8 in a 4-0 victory at Columbus). The PawSox have 19 victories this season and 7 of those have been shutouts (the Sox lead the League with 7 shutout wins). Furthermore, in five other wins the Sox have allowed just 1 run. Pawtucket had 5 shutout wins all of last year. The club-record is 15 shutouts in 1977.

**MAY FLOWERS:** The PawSox are off to a 9-4 start in the month of May and have outscored the opposition, 43-24. The numbers so far are lopsided on the pitching side as Sox pitchers are 9-4 with a 1.49 ERA in May. 24 year-old RHP **Clay Buchholz** is 2-0 with a 1.03 ERA in 6 GS (2<sup>nd</sup> best ERA in the IL) while 22 year-old RHP **Michael Bowden** is 2-1 with a 1.06 ERA in 6 GS (3<sup>rd</sup> best ERA in the League). 23 year-old reliever **Daniel Bard** was promoted to Boston on Sunday and worked two scoreless innings in Anaheim last night in his big league debut. He was 1-0 with 6 SV and a 1.13 ERA in 11 RA for the PawSox.

## **ROCHESTER RED WINGS ([www.RedWingsBaseball.com](http://www.RedWingsBaseball.com))**

**CARDIAC KIDS:** The Red Wings won their first game of the season in their last at-bat Tuesday night. Going into the 2009 season, Rochester has six consecutive seasons (2008: 15-10 record, 2007: 11-10 record, 2006: 20-12 record, 2005: 11-6 record, 2004: 11-6 record & 2003: 10-7 record) with a winning record in games decided in last at-bats. It's the first time Rochester has done this since 1979 when Red Wings records begin. Since 2003, the Red Wings have a 79-53 record in games decided in last at-bats.

**MAY....BE A RECORD:** Tuesday night's win gave the Red Wings 10 wins in May, which ties their entire win total they for the month of May in 2008 (10-20). The Red Wings hold a 10-4 record so far in May, and if Rochester can post an 8-9 record the last 17 games they would finish with 18 wins (18-13 record) in May. It would only be the third time (1995: 18-12 and 1997: 19-11) since 1980 when month-to-month records begin that Rochester has finished the month of May with 18 or more wins. Rochester has not had a 20-win May since monthly records start in 1980.

**BRING ON EVERYBODY...BUT THE YANKEES:** The Red Wings early season struggles can be contributed to running into the hottest Minor League team to start the 2009 season (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre). Rochester is 1-6 vs. Scranton/WB (Yankees got off to a 23-5 start) but 16-8 vs. the rest of the IL.

## **SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE YANKEES ([www.SWBYankees.com](http://www.SWBYankees.com))**

**NOT A RECORD WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT:** Scranton/Wilkes-Barre has not scored a run since **Doug Bernier** came home on a **Todd Linden** double with two outs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning of Saturday's 3-2 loss to Louisville. Since that RBI two-bagger for Linden, the Yankees have gone 44.1 innings with out denting the dish, setting a new franchise record. The previous record for consecutive scoreless innings was held by the 1994 Red Barons who went 26.0 innings with out a run from June 7-10.

**LOOKING TO SNAP OUT OF THE SLIDE:** **Eric Duncan** is trying to snap out of a terrible funk that has seen his batting average drop from .309 to .206. Duncan snapped a nine game hitless streak (0-31) with a 3<sup>rd</sup> inning double off **Jose Contreras**. Even with the hit in Wednesday's game Duncan is still scuffling over his last 11 games with two hits in 44 AB (.045).

**1501 SWB'S ELUSIVE NUMBER:** Since winning the opening game of the series on Friday night over Louisville for the franchise's 1,500<sup>th</sup> all time win, the Yankees have gone 0-5, have been shut out in four straight and scored a grand total of two runs. SWB has lost four straight games for the first time since 2007. The Yanks have also seen their team batting average drop to .291 this season and hit .166 (27-163) as a team since picking up the milestone win.

**WELCOME TO THE ROTATION HOPE YOU CAN STAY FOR A WHILE:** **Chien-Ming Wang** became the 12<sup>th</sup> different starting pitcher used by Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in 2009, getting the starting nod on Wednesday night. The right-hander joins **Jason Johnson**, **Ian Kennedy**, **Alfredo Aceves**, **Phil Hughes**, **Kei Igawa**, **Eric Hacker**, **Jason Stephens**, **Casey Fossum**, **George Kontos**, **Steven Jackson** and **Josh Towers**, who have all made at least one start for the Yankees in 2009. Aceves and Hughes got recalled to the big leagues. Johnson and Kennedy are both on the DL. Hacker and Jackson were designated for assignment and potentially could rejoin the SWB pitching staff, while Fossum and Kontos remain in the Yankees rotation. Igawa is the lone member of the original starting rotation that is still a SWB starter. The Yankees used 20 different starting pitchers the championship year of 2008.

## **SYRACUSE CHIEFS ([www.SyracuseChiefs.com](http://www.SyracuseChiefs.com))**

**LASTINGS OUT:** Outfielder **Lastings Milledge** suffered a broken ring finger on Monday vs. Indianapolis and will be lost to the team for six to eight weeks. The 24-year-old prospect was attempting to bunt a pitch thrown by Indians right-hander (and ex-Chief) **Ty Taubenheim** in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning when he was struck.

**VENTO MAKES LONG TREK BACK:** The Chiefs added outfielder **Mike Vento** from the Nationals extended spring training camp on Wednesday to replace Milledge. Vento spent all of last season in Taiwan after playing in 84 games for the Chiefs in 2007 (while in the Blue Jays organization). Vento drove from Vierra, Florida just in time to be inserted in the Chiefs lineup on Wednesday vs. Norfolk and went 2-4 with an 8<sup>th</sup> inning RBI single that tied the game.

**LEDEZMA EXPECTED TO BE ADDED SOON:** He was designated for assignment almost three weeks ago by the Washington Nationals, ultimately placed on the Vermont roster. This week left-hander **Wil Ledezma** will be activated with Syracuse, giving manager **Tim Foli** a left-handed reliever in the bullpen. Ledezma has been working with pitching coach **Steve McCatty** to refine his delivery.

## **TOLEDO MUD HENS ([www.MudHens.com](http://www.MudHens.com))**

**BONINE/BUCHHOLZ GEM:** The Hens won 1-0 over Pawtucket yesterday in a 10-inning affair that featured starters **Clay Buchholz** and **Eddie Bonine**. The two combined for 17 innings and allowed only five hits with no walks while striking out 16 (a season-high 11 for Buchholz). Bonine allowed just one hit, a second inning single to **Dusty Brown**. **Casey Fien** pitched a perfect 10<sup>th</sup> to protect the 1-hitter and the Hens scored in the bottom of the frame on a RBI single by **Will Rhymes** for the win.

**FINALLY BEAT PAWTUCKET:** The 1-0 win over Pawtucket was the team's first in six tries. In their previous five games, Toledo had been out-scored 18-4 and out-hit 36-28.

**QUICK GAME:** The game between Pawtucket and Toledo tied for the Hens' shortest game of the season. It was the Mud Hens fastest home game this season and had the pace of the fastest in Fifth Third Field history through the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. Toledo hosted Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on June 19, 2003 in a game that finished in 1 hour and 51 minutes and featured **Chase Utley**, **Cody Ross**, **Brandon Inge** and **Nate Robertson**.

**LUCAS FRENCH PROMOTION:** The Tigers placed LHP **Nate Robertson** on the disabled list retroactive to May 6 and have purchased the contract of Mud Hens starting LHP **Lucas French**. French was 2-2 in six starts with the Mud Hens (34.0 IP, 11ER) with a 2.91 ERA and 29 strikeouts, including a team-leading 24 K in April.