



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## Minors' Best Slugger, Run Producer on Topps' Triple-A All-Star Team

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Dallas McPherson, who led Minor League Baseball with 42 homers, and Joe Koshansky, who drove in the most runners in 2008, are among the players selected to the Topps Triple-A All-Star Team. The best performances in all Minor League Baseball classifications are again being honored by the Topps Company of New York, N.Y., in conjunction with Minor League Baseball.

**Joe Koshansky** (26) of Fairfax, Va., led all Minor League Baseball players with 121 RBIs and his 71 extra base hits paced the Pacific Coast League (PCL). The **Colorado Springs Sky Sox** first baseman also finished in the top four in the PCL in home runs (31) and slugging percentage (.600). Koshansky hit for the cycle on May 24 and then again on August 12 this season. The **Colorado Rockies** selected him in the sixth round in 2004 out of the University of Virginia.

**Chris Getz** (25) of Grosse Pointe, Mich., hit .302 with 11 home runs and 52 RBIs for the **Charlotte Knights**. The second baseman added 24 doubles, a triple and 60 runs in 111 games. He also appeared in 10 games for the **Chicago White Sox**, who drafted him in the fourth round in 2005 out of the University of Michigan.

**Jamie D'Antona** (26) of Tega Cay, S.C., finished third among full-season batters with a .365 average. The **Tucson Sidewinders** third baseman also ranked third in the PCL with a .604 slugging percentage, thanks to his 35 doubles, triple and 21 homers. The **Arizona Diamondbacks** drafted D'Antona in the second round in 2003 out of Wake Forest University.

**Brandon Wood** (23) of Scottsdale, Ariz., only played in 103 games for the **Salt Lake Bees**, but he still managed to hit 31 roundtrippers and drive in 84 runs. Wood had 21 doubles and finished fifth in the PCL in slugging (.595). The **Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim**, whom Wood appeared with in 55 games this season, drafted him with the 23<sup>rd</sup> overall pick in 2003 out of Horizon H.S. in Scottsdale.

**Chris Carter** (26) of Concord, Calif., finished among the top dozen players in the International League (IL) in average, home runs, RBIs and slugging percentage. The **Pawtucket Red Sox** outfielder had his best month in May, when he hit .352 with an 11-game hitting streak. The **Boston Red Sox** acquired Carter in a trade with Washington in August 2007.

**Nelson Cruz** (28) of Montecriste, D.R., earned MVP honors in the PCL thanks to his performance with the **Oklahoma RedHawks**. He was among the top four players in the circuit in home runs (37); on-base percentage (.429); stolen bases (24); batting average (.342); and runs (93). Cruz's .695 slugging percentage led all Minor Leaguers. The **Texas Rangers** obtained him in a July 2006 trade with Milwaukee.

**Terry Tiffie** (29) of Little Rock, Ark., got his season off to a hot start, hitting .486 in 26 April games for the **Las Vegas 51s**. He hit at least .344 in every month except one. Tiffie finished with a PCL-best .378 average, which was also tops among switch-hitters in the Minors. The **Los Angeles Dodgers** signed him as a free agent in November 2007.

**Rob Johnson** (25) of Houston, Texas, hit .305 with 30 doubles, nine homers and 49 RBIs for the **Tacoma Rainiers**. The catcher's 37% success rate throwing out base stealers ranked among the top backstops in the PCL. The **Seattle Mariners** selected Johnson in the fourth round out of the University of Houston in 2004.

**Dallas McPherson** (28) of Braselton, Ga., led Minor League Baseball with 42 home runs to capture the Joe Bauman Trophy in the annual Roundtripper Contest. His 94 runs and 67 extra base hits with the **Albuquerque Isotopes** ranked second in the PCL. McPherson also finished third in the loop with 76 walks. The **Florida Marlins** signed McPherson, who missed all of 2007 while recovering from back surgery, as a free agent in January.

(more)

**Charlie Zink** (29) of El Dorado Hills, Calif., finished second in the IL in victories (14); earned run average (2.84); innings pitched (174.1); and batting average against (.223). The **Pawtucket Red Sox** right-handed knuckleballer, who led the league a 1.11 WHIP (walks+hits/innings pitched), was named the IL's Most Valuable Pitcher. The **Boston Red Sox** signed Zink as a free agent in 2002.

**Kei Igawa** (29) of Ibaraki, Japan, won 11 of his last 13 decisions for the **Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees** and 14 games overall. The left-hander ranked fourth in the IL with a 3.45 ERA. The **New York Yankees** signed Igawa in December 2006, after he had played for Hanshin in the Central League in Japan from 1998-2006.

**Blaine Neal** (30) of Gibbstown, N.J., recorded saves in 11 consecutive appearances for the **Toledo Mud Hens** on his way to 26 for the season. The right-hander struck out 39 batters in 37.1 innings and held opposing hitters to a .207 average. The **Detroit Tigers** signed him as a free agent in March.

### 2008 TOPPS/MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TRIPLE-A ALL-STAR TEAM

POSITION	PLAYER	CLUB/LEAGUE	AFFILIATE	AVG.	HR	RBI			
First Base	Joe Koshansky	Colo. Springs/PCL	Colorado	.300	31	121			
Second Base	Chris Getz	Charlotte/IL	Chicago-AL	.302	11	52			
Third Base	Jamie D'Antona	Tucson/PCL	Arizona	.365	21	79			
Shortstop	Brandon Wood	Salt Lake/PCL	Los Angeles-AL	.296	31	84			
Outfield	Chris Carter	Pawtucket/IL	Boston	.300	24	81			
Outfield	Nelson Cruz	Oklahoma/PCL	Texas	.342	37	99			
Outfield	Terry Tiffie	Las Vegas/PCL	Los Angeles-NL	.378	9	69			
Catcher	Rob Johnson	Tacoma/PCL	Seattle	.305	9	49			
Des. Hitter	Dallas McPherson	Albuquerque/PCL	Florida	.275	42	98			
				<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>ERA</b>			
RH Pitcher	Charlie Zink	Pawtucket/IL	Boston	14	6	2.84			
LH Pitcher	Kei Igawa	Scranton/W-B/IL	New York-AL	14	6	3.45			
Relief Pitcher	Blaine Neal	Toledo/IL	Detroit	1	0	1.21	26	Saves	

*(Statistics do not reflect players' performances in other leagues)*

**Double-A All-Stars will be announced on November 19**  
**Class A All-Stars will be announced on November 26**  
**Short Season/Rookie All-Stars will be announced on December 3**

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