

# Curtain Call



## ONE IN 10

After five days in the NICU with their daughter, the Swaggertys are giving back

*by Anna Kayser*





# Curtain Call

THE OFFICIAL INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS DIGITAL MAGAZINE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 3

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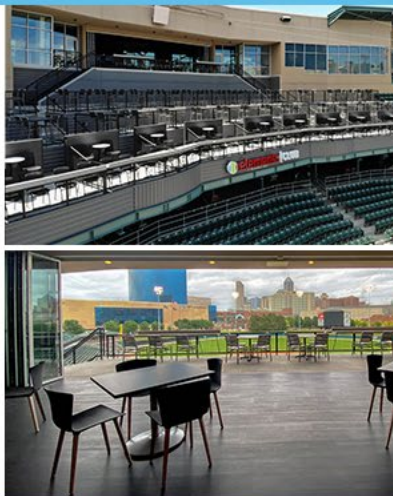
# Premium Seating AT VICTORY FIELD

## Elements Financial Club

**SEATING AND AMENITIES:**  
RESERVED BAR-HEIGHT TABLES OUTSIDE,  
ALONG WITH BAR STOOLS AND SOFT  
SEATING INSIDE

**FOOD AND BEVERAGE:**  
DINNER AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED  
FOR EACH CLUB TICKETED GUEST

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## Yuengling Landing

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DEDICATED FOUR-PERSON TABLES  
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**WAIT SERVICE:**  
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**SPECIALTY MENU:**  
ACCESS TO EXCLUSIVE FOOD ITEMS,  
COCKTAILS AND CRAFT BEER

**MINI PLANS, GROUP OUTINGS AND  
SINGLE-GAME TICKET PACKAGES AVAILABLE**

# Daily DEALS



## KIDS EAT FREE SUNDAYS

All children 14 and under  
receive a free hot dog, bag of  
chips and bottle of water with  
price of admission.



## WEDNESDAY DAY GAMES

Schedule that "off-site"  
meeting or business lunch  
during these afternoon  
ballgames.



## FRIDAY FIREWORKS

Start your weekend  
with a bang and enjoy  
a postgame fireworks  
show.



## TUESDAY DOLLAR MENU

Bring your appetite when hot  
dogs, peanuts, potato chips,  
Cracker Jack and popcorn are  
all available for just \$1 each.



## THIRSTY THURSDAYS™

Quench your thirst with \$2 Pepsi  
fountain drinks, \$3 domestic  
drafts and \$5 premium and  
craft drafts.



## SUPER SATURDAYS

Knock Saturdays out  
of the park with super  
hero nights.

# UPCOMING SCHEDULE & PROMOTIONS

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		7:05	1:05	7:05	7:05	7:05
7:35		MEM 8:05	MEM 8:05	MEM 8:05	MEM 7:35	
14 MEM 3:05		7:05	1:35	7:05	7:05	7:05
21 1:35		7:05	1:35	7:05	7:05	7:05
28 1:35						

HOME AWAY

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 LOU 6:35	2 LOU 7:05	3 LOU 7:05
4 LOU 6:35		6 OMA 7:35	7 OMA 7:35	8 OMA 7:35	9 OMA 7:35	10 OMA 7:35
11 OMA 3:05		13 6:35	14 1:35	15 12:05	16 7:05	17 6:35
18 1:35	19 6:35	20 6:35	21 1:35	22 7:05	23 7:05	24 6:35
25	26 COL 6:15	27 COL 4:15	28 COL 6:15	29	30	

### AUGUST / SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

#### PACERS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT | FRI., AUG. 5

The ball diamond and hardwood combine as two of Indy's professional sports teams join forces. Pacers players will sign autographs and PaceMates will perform during the game. Stick around after the shot clock expires for postgame fireworks.

#### NICKELODEON WEEKEND | SAT., AUG. 20 - SUN., AUG. 21

Add to your summer lineup and meet your kid's favorite characters on Saturday, Aug. 20 and Sunday, Aug. 21 during Nickelodeon Weekend featuring Blue's Clues & You, Baby Shark and PAW Patrol! Characters from all three shows will be in attendance for both dates, and you can be one of 10 fans each game to win a Youth Large Nickelodeon Weekend jersey!

#### JURASSIC (BALL)PARK NIGHT | SAT., SEPT. 17 PRESENTED BY INDIANA WIC

Hold on to your butts as Victory Field transforms into a Jurassic (Ball)Park! Take advantage of photo opportunities with dinosaurs standing 10 feet tall, check out dinosaur fossils and enjoy Jurassic-themed in-game entertainment.

#### SUNDAY CHARACTERS WITH PRINCESSES | SUN., SEPT. 18 PRESENTED BY MHS

Celebrate all things royalty when princesses from your favorite fairy tales take over Victory Field. Stop by the Plaza before and during the game for a meet and greet.

#### FAN APPRECIATION WEEKEND | FRI., SEPT. 23 - SAT., SEPT. 24

The Indians are celebrating the best fans in baseball all weekend long. Come out to the ballpark and enjoy firework shows both nights as the Indians cap their 2022 season in grand fashion! The first 2,500 fans through the gates each night will receive scratch-offs to win prizes. Grand prizes will be awarded to nine lucky fans as part of our new "Nine Innings of Winning" promotion.





# ADDICTED TO THE GAME

Indy's hitting coach Eric Munson fell in love with baseball at the age of seven

By Mike Lopresti

*So here we are at the parking lot of San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium.*

Inside the gates, the Padres and Chicago Cubs are tied in the bottom of the ninth inning of Game 4 of the 1984 National League Championship Series. The place is packed, and lots of fans without tickets are hanging around outside, just to share the experience. Like that 7-year-old boy over there, with his sister and aunt.

Suddenly, a roar from the ballpark. Steve Garvey has homered for a walk-off Padres' victory (they'd win again the next day to clinch the pennant). The crowd thunder builds like a rolling storm, and the little boy outside is enchanted by it all.

"I remember to this day feeling the parking lot shake," Eric Munson would say 38 years later. If he wasn't in full-blown love with the game of baseball before then, he was after that afternoon.

And look where it's led.

Eric Munson is the hitting coach for the 2022 Indianapolis Indians. That's saying a mouthful when you consider where he was last year: In Dubuque,

Iowa, teaching kids the game at the baseball training academy he started in 2013, just as he had been every other year. Fact is, until this season, Munson had never spent a day as a coach in a professional baseball dugout.

And now he's helping tutor guys who are one call from the big leagues.

"This is a lot different. Obviously. It's a lot more of a challenge, but I like being challenged," he was saying one day in the Victory Field dugout, after spending a good part of the afternoon studying the Indians' batting practice. "I like the competition."

It's not exactly your garden variety road to a Triple-A staff. Aside from all those years with Gold Standard Athletics back in Dubuque, his only coaching experience has been in college. But he was once a major league player. Plus, he knows hitting and he knows how to talk so others listen, and isn't that the job description?

"The players have been great. Sometimes things work, sometimes they don't, but they've been open to suggestions. As a coach, that's really all you want," he said. "I've felt at home. A lot of that is the organization and the staff and the people I've been around.

They've made me feel welcome and they've given me a lot of help and a lot of advice. I feel pretty comfortable, but obviously I'm still learning. You've got to keep learning. If you think you know it all, you're probably full of it."

The unconventional road to Indianapolis is just one interesting Munson tale. So is his first major league game as a player, when he stood at first base with his stomach doing cartwheels.

Or why he once left a College World Series field bleeding. And wait till you hear about who was in the stands on the best day of his major league career.

Yeah, he might be a rookie when it comes to coaching professional baseball, but he knows all about the long road to the big leagues, which can have more potholes than Keystone Avenue in March. He's been on it.

So, time for some Munson stories. It is 1998 in Omaha and his USC team is closing in on the College World Series title. After the last out to clinch the champion-



ship, the Trojans celebrate on the field and he's at ground zero. He had chosen to come to USC as a catcher – "Best decision I ever made" – for a chance at this very moment.

"I was at the bottom of the dogpile," he said. "And I remember everyone crashing down and I faceplanted. I got a bloody nose." Not that he minded.

It is the 1999 First-Year Player Draft and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays have the first pick. Josh Hamilton. Next are the Florida Marlins. Josh Beckett. Then the Detroit Tigers.

Eric Munson.

A lot of thrills come from being named so quickly on draft day. A lot of money. And maybe, a little burden of expectation. "I never really looked at it that way," he said. "I just wanted to play in the big leagues. Every day I tried to get better."

It is July 18, 2000. For Munson, the moment nearly every young baseball player dreams of when looking at posters on his bedroom wall – his first day in the major leagues. Late in the game against Cincinnati, Munson takes over at first base for the Tigers.

"First putout was Ken Griffey Jr. I'll never forget, for some reason I was nervous, and I never really felt nervous like that before. I just remember thinking, please dear God, don't hit me a pop-up. I never had trouble with pop-ups, but I was thinking, just don't hit me a pop-up. Luckily it was a ground ball. I settled in after that."

He had his first at-bat the next day – against Roger Clemens in Yankee Stadium. That's what's called jumping into the deep end of the pool. Lined out to left on the first pitch. "That one happened so fast," he said, "I didn't even have time to think about it."

It is September 19, 2001, and Munson is back with the Tigers. His first major league hit is a single against Minnesota's Eric Milton, and he still has the ball stored away. Two weeks later, he would hit the first of his 49 major league home runs – against Eric Milton. "It's easy to remember those, because it was just one name," he said.

It is June 26, 2004. Munson is having the



brightest time of his career, with 18 home runs the season before and on his way to 19 for 2004. He leads off the bottom of the ninth inning of a 6-6 game against Arizona's Brandon Villafrute and sends the third pitch on a moonshot to deep center. Going . . . going . . . will it ever come down? Not until it lands 457 feet away, at the time the longest home run in the history of Comerica Park, and also a game-winner. Munson savors the cheers from the stands, not realizing that one

of the 33,579 fans is named Muhammad Ali.

"I went up to the clubhouse and Muhammad Ali was in the clubhouse. I got my picture taken with him. That was a good day," he said. And the start of a unique streak for the Tigers. It was the first of three consecutive games they would win with a walk-off homer.

It is Sept. 21, 2009, and Munson goes to the plate for the Oakland Athletics, his fourth major league team. The flyout to left

against Texas' Eddie Guardado is his 1056th official at-bat in the majors. Also his last. Retirement beckons, and if his career had never been the shooting star that the No. 3 pick a decade earlier might have suggested, he had still played a lot of big-league baseball.

"At the end I was at peace with it because my body just didn't work the way that it used to," he said. "I had slowed down and was breaking down. I knew it was time."

He was 32 years old with a wife and two young children. What next?

Munson returned to USC to complete his degree, then hooked up with the Trojans baseball team as an instructor. Later came an assistant's spot with the 18U team for USA Baseball, and the decision to turn an old building in Dubuque into a baseball training academy.

Baseball had always been in his blood. Teaching how to hit it turned out to be as well.

The nibbles from professional baseball came the next few years but Munson was never quite ready. His children were young, and Gold Standard Athletics needed tending. Still, others looked at him and saw a future back in the game, and when friend Andy Haines became the Pirates' hitting coach this season, he put out feelers to Munson.

Why not Indianapolis? Munson's kids were well along in their teens, and Indy is not so far from home in Iowa. "I was just kind of waiting for the right situation," he said. "Everything lined up."

"Here we are."

Here he is, putting in the same work ethic he has always displayed. Catch Munson after a game in Victory Field, and he is almost always studying film with Brady Conlan, the integrated performance coach. On the road, they're doing the same thing back in their hotel room. There is always something to see, something to learn, something to improve.

And besides, Munson understands the journey so many of the Indianapolis players are trying to make.

"I hope it offers them a little bit of comfort, because I've done everything good,



bad and terrible. When they're struggling, we know what it's like to struggle. We know what it's like to be on a hot streak, and all of the stuff in between," he said. "We know when to talk to them and when to leave them alone."

Yeah, it's different in many ways than back in Dubuque working with young kids. But some things are the same — the challenges and pitfalls of trying to hit a moving baseball thrown by a pitcher with malice in his heart.

"I think the biggest thing with this level is the mechanics and moves are pretty good or very, very close," he said. "So, the bigger piece to me is how do we help them with approach. Who are we facing that night, what does the guy have? More the strategic part and I really enjoy that piece of it."

"When you're younger and you're not playing at this level, you can just see the ball and react. You don't have to have as much of a detailed approach. At this level, it's not random how they pitch. They know what your weaknesses are, and they know what your strengths are. To be able to play the game of chess versus back in the day, it was playing checkers. It was a little bit more reactionary. Here you have to think a little bit more."

"Brady and I enjoy helping them with that."

Hitting a baseball can be a merciless and frustrating task, especially for a player who is close enough to the major leagues to smell the popcorn. Munson was there once.

"Because of the level and because these guys are so close, that's a challenge to players as well, to not try and look too far in the future. And also, not look in the past. That's just human nature. Sometimes we get stuck looking in the past or looking in the future but here, you have to be in it today because if you're not, the game can embarrass you. Everybody's been embarrassed in this game."

Much of the above for Munson and Conlan requires them finding what pushes the right buttons for each hitter. Not easy in Triple-A, where the usual situation is players coming and going like the Indianapolis airport. As of late July, 29 different men had an

at-bat this season for the Indians.

And if some of this is on-the-job training for Munson, the Indianapolis players seem to appreciate the effort.

Outfielder Jared Oliva, for example.

"We've had a lot of guys come in, a lot of guys go up, and they're just really staying on top of what works for each guy. When the cage opens at 2:30, they're in there at 2:15, when it ends at 3:30, they're there at 3:45," he said. "When things do come up, they're quick to address what drills, what external cues guys might need."

Or Ji-Hwan Bae, who in late July was hitting .300 in his first Triple-A season and has thrived with Munson's keep-it-simple approach.

"That's the best way for teaching for me," he said. "Sometimes when he catches something he comes up and talks first, and then sometimes, I feel weird, but I go to him first and ask something."

"If you cannot trust the hitting coach, you can't do anything. I one hundred percent trust him."

Or Bligh Madris, who was also flirting with .300.

"The most important part in this game, because it is so hard, is to have someone like (Munson) who instills confidence in all the guys. He knows we can play, he trusts all the work we put in every day. He lets us know how good we are and how good we can be on any given night. He doesn't let us dwell on the bad, but he pushes for the good every single day. And he's a workhorse too. Whatever we need to work on, he's there for us."

That's easy for Munson to do, since when he talks of being around baseball, he uses the word addiction.

"I'm having a blast. It's a lot of time, there's a lot of things that go into it, but at no time does it feel like work. We always call it a grind. Yeah, we're grinding because it's every day, like the players, but it's a fun grind. I enjoy the work. When you come out and watch the game, that's your reward."

And sometimes, baseball can be so special that the parking lot shakes. He learned that when he was seven.



# VISITORS AT THE VIC



## Louisville Bats

**Cincinnati Reds Triple-A affiliate since 2000, West Division**  
**August 2-7**

**Get to Know 'Em:** Triple-A baseball in Louisville began in 1982 when the Louisville Redbirds, then-affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals, joined the American Association.

During the American Association era, Indianapolis and Louisville faced off in the postseason four times (1984, 1987, 1994 and 1995), with the winner of each of those series going on to win the league championship. In the IL era, Louisville has been affiliated with the Milwaukee Brewers (1998-99) and Cincinnati Reds. It also rebranded as the Louisville RiverBats in 1999 and shortened the nickname to Bats in 2002. In 2021 the Bats finished sixth out of seven teams in the Triple-A East Midwest Division with a 55-73 record for their ninth consecutive losing season. Since 1998, when both Indianapolis and Louisville joined the International League after the American Association disbanded, the Indians own a 228-221 (.508) record against their longtime rival.

**Players to Watch:** Louisville's pitching rotation is highlighted by left-hander Brandon Williamson, who is rated as Cincinnati's No. 4 prospect by MLB Pipeline. The 24-year-old is 1-2 with a 3.27 ERA (8er/22.0ip) through his first five Triple-A starts after going 5-2 with a 4.14 ERA (31er/67.1ip) in 14 starts with Double-A Chattanooga. Offensively, third baseman Cristian Santana is hitting .305 (90-for-295) – which ranks fourth among International League qualifiers – with four home runs, 18 doubles and 42 RBI.

**League Championships (4):** 1984, 1985, 1995 (American Association); 2001 (International League)



## Iowa Cubs

**Chicago Cubs Triple-A affiliate since 1981, West Division**  
**August 16-21**

**Get to Know 'Em:** The Iowa Oaks were founded in 1969 and kept that name through the 1981 season. Then in 1982, Iowa adopted the Cubs nickname after becoming the

Triple-A affiliate of the Chicago Cubs the year prior. Indianapolis and Iowa were both members of the American Association from 1969-97, but Indy joined the International League and Iowa went to the Pacific Coast League when the American Association disbanded ahead of the 1998 campaign. Since 1988, Indianapolis is 109-83 (.568) against Iowa, including a 58-37 (.611) record in Indy. The Indians won four of six at Iowa from April 26-May 1 and then split a six-game set at Victory Field in early July.

**Players to Watch:** The Cubs farm system is led by outfielder Brennen Davis (No. 1 by MLB Pipeline) who appeared in only 22 games before being sidelined with a back injury. Right-hander Caleb Kilian (No. 6) leads the rotation and is 3-1 with a 3.55 ERA (26er/66.0ip) and 84 strikeouts compared to 32 walks. When Iowa first visited Indianapolis, outfielder Jackson Frazier went 9-for-21 with two home runs – including a grand slam — and nine RBI.

**League Championships (1):** 1993 (American Association)



## Rochester Red Wings

**Washington Nationals Triple-A affiliate since 2021, West Division**  
**August 23-28**

**Get to Know 'Em:** Rochester Red Wings are coming to Victory Field for a matchup with the Indians for the first time since August 13-15, 2019. Rochester is the minors' oldest continuously running franchise, with its first year of operation coming in 1899 as the Rochester Bronchos. The organization ascended to Triple-A baseball in 1928, when the Red Wings became the top affiliate of the St.

# VISITORS AT THE VIC

Louis Cardinals through the 1960 campaign. They were affiliated with the Baltimore Orioles from 1961-2002 and Minnesota Twins from 2003-19 before their first season as the Triple-A affiliate of the Washington Nationals in 2021. Since 1988, the Indians are 93-96 (.492) against the Red Wings including a 50-45 (.526) record at home.

**Players to Watch:** The Red Wings roster showcases some of the Nationals top pitching prospects with right-hander Cade Cavalli (No. 1 by MLB Pipeline) and left-hander Matt Cronin (No. 12). Cavalli is 4-3 with a 4.03 ERA (34er/76.0ip), 77 strikeouts and 1.17 WHIP. Outfielders Joey Meneses (20 home runs, 64 RBI) and Andrew Stevenson (35 extra-base hits, 41 RBI) lead the offense. Meneses' 20 long balls are tied for second most in the International League.

**League Championships (10):** 1939, 1952, 1955-56, 1964, 1971, 1974, 1988, 1990, 1997



## Toledo Mud Hens

**Detroit Tigers Triple-A affiliate since 1987, West Division**  
**September 13-18**

**Get to Know 'Em:** Professional baseball in Toledo and Indianapolis has been intertwined for decades, with both organizations competing against each other in the American Association and International League for many years. From 1988-91 as part of the Triple-A Alliance, where American Association teams would play IL teams in regular-season crossover series, the Mud Hens and Indians renewed their rivalry. The two squads began playing each other annually once again when Indy joined the IL in 1998. Last season the Mud Hens went 74-56 to win the Triple-A East Midwest Division for their first division crown since 2018. Since 1988, the Indians own a record of 254-212 (.545) against Toledo, including a 142-97 (.594) mark in the Circle City.

**Players to Watch:** The Mud Hens are highlighted by Spencer Torkelson, a recent prospect graduate who was taken No. 1 overall by Detroit in the 2020 First-Year Player Draft. Torkelson opened the 2022 campaign with Detroit but hit just .197 (52-for-264) with five home runs in 83 games. Last year he clubbed 11 homers and had an .881 OPS in 40 games at the Triple-A level.

**League Championships (4):** 1927 (American Association); 1967, 2005, 2006 (International League)



## St. Paul Saints

**Minnesota Twins Triple-A affiliate since 2021, West Division**  
**September 19-24**

**Get to Know 'Em:** The St. Paul Saints were in affiliated baseball as a member of the American Association from 1902-60 and played Indianapolis during that time. Throughout that era, the Saints were affiliated with the White Sox (1936-42), Brooklyn Dodgers (1944-57) and Los Angeles Dodgers (1958-60). In 1961, the St. Paul franchise moved to Omaha and there was no professional baseball in the city until 1993. A new Saints organization returned and played independent ball in the Northern League (1993-2005) and American Association (2006-20) before joining the Triple-A East as the affiliate of the Minnesota Twins prior to the 2021 campaign. Dating back to 1938, the Indians are 259-272 (.488) against the Saints with a 7-8 record this season.

**Players to Watch:** The Twins farm system is currently led by shortstop Royce Lewis (No. 1 by MLB Pipeline), who was placed on the 60-day injured list after tearing his ACL in his right knee on May 29 after colliding with the outfield wall in a game against Kansas City. Minnesota recently improved its depth in the minors, adding Toronto's 2020 first-round draft pick, utilityman Austin Martin (No. 2), and right-hander Simeon Woods Richardson (No. 4) at the 2021 trade deadline in exchange for right-hander Jose Berrios. Second baseman Spencer Steer (No. 7) and outfielder Matt Wallner (No. 8) add prospect punch to St. Paul's existing roster.

**League Championships (2):** 1948 (affiliated American Association) and 2019 (independent American Association)

\*All statistics noted include games completed through July 31, 2022.

## QUICK HITTERS WITH CARTER BINS

The Indians backstop spoke on his routine, leadership and role as catcher

*As the Indians' primary catcher behind the dish this season, Carter Bins has the challenge of leading the defense and learning Indy's pitching staff – often a revolving door of both veterans and young talent – on the fly. We sat down with the 23-year-old to talk about what it takes to be a catcher and what life is like for him off the diamond.*

**Q:** Where did you grow up?

**CB:** I grew up in Fairfield, California.

**Q:** What is a hobby you enjoyed as a kid?

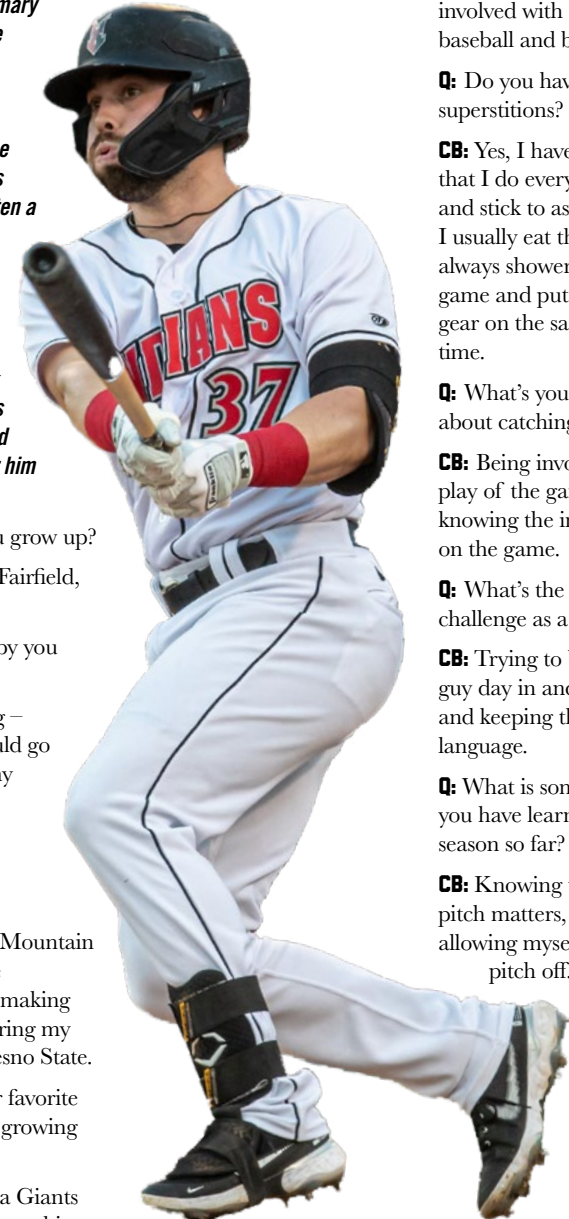
**CB:** I liked fishing – specifically, I would go fly fishing with my dad.

**Q:** What's your favorite baseball memory?

**CB:** Winning the Mountain West Conference tournament and making it to regionals during my junior year at Fresno State.

**Q:** Who was your favorite catcher to watch growing up?

**CB:** I grew up as a Giants fan, so I enjoyed watching



Buster Posey play.

**Q:** If you didn't play professional baseball, what career path would you have taken?

**CB:** I would want to stay involved with the game of baseball and be a coach.

**Q:** Do you have any superstitions?

**CB:** Yes, I have a routine that I do every day that I try and stick to as best as I can. I usually eat the same meal, always shower before the game and put my catching gear on the same way each time.

**Q:** What's your favorite part about catching?

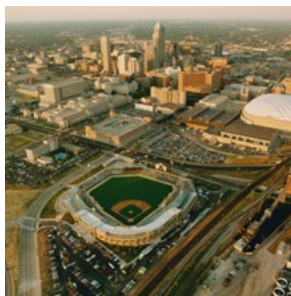
**CB:** Being involved in every play of the game and knowing the impact I have on the game.

**Q:** What's the biggest challenge as a catcher?

**CB:** Trying to be the same guy day in and day out and keeping the same body language.

**Q:** What is something that you have learned during the season so far?

**CB:** Knowing that every pitch matters, and not allowing myself to take a pitch off.



## THIS DAY IN INDIANS HISTORY

Baseball history runs deep in Indianapolis. Now in the 120th season of Indianapolis Indians baseball, the club has had its fair share of iconic moments and baseball stars come through the Circle City. We highlighted some of the top moments in team history for the months of August and September.

### AUGUST 1, 2015



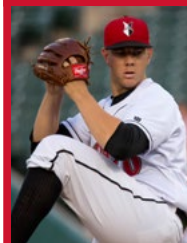
Tyler Glasnow made his Triple-A debut and struck out seven batters in 5.1 innings. He surrendered four runs (one earned) and took a no-decision as Indy mounted a comeback to defeat Charlotte in 13 innings at Victory Field, 6-5. Glasnow made six starts in August 2015 for the Indians and finished the month 1-0 with a 0.81 ERA (3er/33.1ip) and 39 strikeouts. He didn't allow a run in his final 17.1 innings (three starts) to close out the month.

### AUGUST 9, 2012

After being the first of three pitchers in a combined no-hitter on April 29, 2012 at Durham, Justin Wilson went the distance to no-hit Charlotte at Victory Field. It was the fourth no-hitter in the Victory Field era and the 14th in team history. He went 8.0 innings and gave up just one walk with five strikeouts before the game was called early due to rain. The Indians won 3-0 to improve to 72-48 on the season.



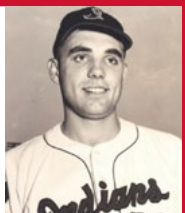
### AUGUST 10, 2017



Nick Kingham tossed the first 9.0-inning complete game for Indianapolis since 2014 in a 3-1 win against Syracuse at Victory Field. It was the first complete game of Kingham's career and the second of three that season for the Indians. He allowed a leadoff single in the fourth inning and a solo home run in the seventh but struck out eight and didn't walk a single batter to improve to 7-6 on the season. Kevin Newman, Max Moroff and Jordan Luplow each had two hits apiece in a game that lasted just 1 hour and 58 minutes.

### AUGUST 13, 1964

Dave DeBusschere, who was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983, hit a second-inning grand slam off Fergie Jenkins to lift the Indians to a 7-2 win over Arkansas at old Victory Field. Jenkins was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991. DeBusschere earned his 12th win of the season after throwing 6.0 innings and yielding only two runs with five strikeouts.

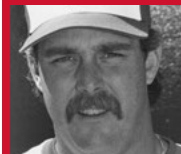


### AUGUST 27, 1985

Rich Stoll, a native of Attica, Ind., threw a no-hitter in Game 1 of a doubleheader against Buffalo. He walked one batter and recorded four strikeouts over 7.0 innings in the 3-0 triumph. It was the final no-hitter thrown by the Indians at Bush Stadium.



### AUGUST 31, 1989



Jay Baller struck out two over 3.0 innings in an 8-1 win at Nashville to give him his 34th save of the season, an American Association record. The 34 saves were a franchise record at the time as well until Bob Scanlan converted 35 saves in 2000.

### SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

Tim Pugh pitched the Indians into the American Association postseason with a playoff-clinching complete game at Louisville. He allowed just two hits and two walks with five punchouts over 9.0 innings in the 3-0 victory. Tim Belk drove in two runs while both Frank Kremblas and Keith Mitchell tallied two knocks apiece.



### SEPTEMBER 1, 2001



Designated hitter Micah Franklin hit for the only three-homer game to date in the Victory Field era in a 5-3 win against Toledo. It was the first three-homer performance for an Indianapolis player since Willie Greene on Aug. 22, 1995 at Omaha. Franklin converted all of his at-bats on the day into long balls and drove in four runs in the process. The home runs were his 19th, 20th and 21st of a team-leading 23 for the 2001 campaign.

### SEPTEMBER 3, 1963

Fritz Ackley struck out six in a two-hit shutout to lead the Indians to a 1-0 winner-take-all contest against Atlanta at old Victory Field. The win gave Indy the International League South title over Atlanta, and the Indians went on to defeat Syracuse and Atlanta in the playoffs to win their first Governors' Cup.



### SEPTEMBER 4, 2005



The Indians clinched the International League Wild Card with their 78th win of the season in a 7-3, 10-inning win at Toledo. Tied 3-3 through nine, Jose Bautista doubled to score the go-ahead run and Jon Nunnally, who would later become Indy's hitting coach for the 2021 season, singled home two insurance runs.



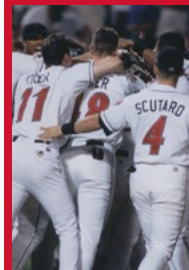


## SEPTEMBER 10, 1989

A three-run double off the bat of Darryl Motley sparked a five-run fifth inning that turned a 3-0 deficit into an eventual 7-4 win and Triple-A Classic sweep for Indianapolis at Richmond. The Indians finished the 1980s with five division titles, five American Association postseason titles and back-to-back Triple-A Classic championships.



## SEPTEMBER 15, 2000



With a 6-1 win over Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in Game 5 of the Governors' Cup finals, the Indians were crowned as International League champions for the first time since 1963. Damon Hollins drove in a pair of runs to lead the offense. The league championship was Indianapolis' first since 1994 as a Cincinnati affiliate when it defeated Louisville and Nashville to take home its last American Association title. With the win, Indy earned a berth to the Triple-A World Series in Las Vegas, where the Indians topped Memphis in a five-game series, 3-1.





# One In 10

*After five days in the NICU with their daughter, Travis and Peyton Swaggerty are giving back*

By Anna Kayser



On Sept. 12, as Travis Swaggerty's 2022 baseball campaign winds to a close in the waning weeks of both the Triple-A and major league schedules, his mind will instead be flurried with images of polka dots and mouse ears.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than one in every 10 infants are born prematurely each year – an estimated total of 15 million. For Travis and his wife, Peyton, their daughter is celebrating her first birthday following the baseball season with a Minnie Mouse-themed party for the ages.

On Sept. 12, 2021, Sutton Hollie Swaggerty was born six weeks early at 4 pounds, 14 ounces. Since, she's grown to see her dad come back from a season-ending injury in 2021 to making his major league debut at PNC Park in Pittsburgh on June 7, 2022.

"I just can't believe that we're already planning [Sutton's] first birthday," Peyton said. "I feel like we have gone through a lot this past year, and I want it to be big. Travis keeps telling me she won't remember it – I don't care. I just want to celebrate."

Brave Beginnings, previously named the Will Rogers Institute Neonatal Equipment Grant Program, is a subset of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation that helps provide hospitals nationwide with newborn intensive care unit (NICU) equipment vital to caring for preterm newborns. Preterm is defined as infants born before the 37-week mark of pregnancy is completed.

According to the Brave Beginnings website, the program distributes an estimated \$1 mil-





lion per year in grants to hospitals across the country to purchase ventilators, sonic equipment and other essential equipment for development and survival.

"It's massive to see so much care going into NICUs across the United States," Travis said. "To have things like ventilator shortages, that's scary. There are so many premature babies that need help and need the care, it's absolutely essential for them to have that."

At 10:30 PM on Sept. 11, over a month from her due date, Peyton's water broke at their home in Mississippi. With her mom out of town and her father reassuring that everything was fine, she was adamant on going to the hospital.

Following an emergency caesarean section in the early hours of the following morning, Sutton was born.

"They put her straight into a travel incubator – a machine that can often come from the money Brave Beginnings donates – and Travis went with her to a different hospital about 20 minutes away," Peyton said. "Neither Travis or I got to hold her, I just got to see them wheeling her off and putting her in an ambulance."

Riley Hospital for Children in Indianap-

olis, a beneficiary of Brave Beginnings as recently as 2020, opened Riley Maternity Tower in late 2021. The addition includes 45 NICU private rooms and four sets of NICU twin rooms, in addition to the 60 NICU beds that previously existed at Riley Hospital.

The proximity of the private NICU rooms to the new labor and delivery unit now allows for postpartum mothers to stay close to their babies while providing the care Hoosiers have come to expect from Riley. As of March 2022, over 2,000 babies have been



birthed in the Riley Maternity Tower.

For the Swaggerty family and others across the country spending days to weeks in the NICU – with length of stays relating to preterm date and diagnosis – having beds available for their newborns is step one in

overcoming a number of trials through the first days of parenting.

"During this whole thing, every bed was full, and we just got lucky that she didn't go out of state," Peyton said. "Thanks to places like Brave Beginnings there are more machines because if not, we would have had to drive an hour and a half to visit her or have her there. We got lucky and there was one bed left at the hospital in Mississippi."

Throughout the five days that Sutton was in the NICU, only one parent was allowed to stay with her. While Peyton was recovering from her emergency C-section with visits to her newborn daughter during the days, Travis' new "Girl Dad" title took on new meaning around the clock.

"Being there for five days, I got some actual experience changing diapers, feeding her and learning to take care of her before we went home, which was a blessing in disguise for me," Travis said. "I wouldn't say it was scary because we had such good care, but it was hard – it was hard to see our child like that, being in a box with feeding tubes and breathing tubes, it's hard to see your child like that."

For Peyton, the importance of care from both the doctors and nurses in Mississippi extended beyond the care of Sutton. They served as a support system both parents.

"Our nurses were amazing, they are definitely underrated," Peyton said. "Each night they came in, they taught Travis how to change diapers, how to feed

her. Each day the doctors came in to update us, they just made us feel better. They taught Travis a lot, in that week that she was there he learned so much. Since I was still recovering from a C-section at a different hospital, they really stepped up and helped motivate

him to know that he was doing a great job. I'm really thankful for that because I couldn't be there."

In 2020, Riley Children's Foundation received a grant from Brave Beginnings that allowed for the addition of Sonicu equipment in Riley Hospital's NICU. Often, the people and machines in the NICU expose infants to excessive noise levels when quiet environments can aid in the development of their minds and bodies. In hospitals across the country, Sonicu has taken over sound monitoring to determine when a noise level is too high.

In a case study at Loma Linda (Calif.) University Health using Sonicu equipment in the NICU, sound monitor light indicators show parents and hospital staff when the noise level is too loud, resulting in a volume that is noticeably quieter than before.

"I can't even describe how scary it is being in the NICU and seeing all the machines, but when you get to bring them home it's the best feeling ever," Peyton said.

While the machines and technology at doctors' fingertips are vital to developing preemies with a low birth weight – below 5 pounds, 8 ounces, with the average, full-term newborn weighing about 8 pounds – human care and interaction is key not only for the babies, but parents as well.

Throughout Travis' stay in the NICU with Sutton, he learned firsthand from professionals how to care for his daughter. So, when asked what advice he would give to parents going through that harrowing experience, being present was the overarching theme.

"Don't take anything for granted because anything can happen and you don't want to see your child go through something like that," Travis said. "While you're in there, pay attention to what's going on and learn how to take care of your child when they're going through something like that, being so small and so young and not being able to do anything."

As Sutton's first birthday approaches, Travis and Peyton are reflecting on their experience and the work of Brave Beginnings with a continued mentality of not taking anything





for granted. Following a battle with thyroid cancer in 2018, the Swaggerty's pushed their charitable efforts to healthcare for those facing a similar fight.

When they became aware of Brave Beginnings' efforts, striving to help was a no-brainer.

"So now we're like, what can we do to get more beds for babies?" Peyton said. "[Sutton] was the biggest baby in the NICU and she was four pounds. The smallest baby I think was one pound, two ounces. It's just very eye opening having a baby that small and seeing everything that they go through."

"Having Sutton go to the NICU, obviously it's very important to us and our lives. She is the most important thing in our lives," Travis said. "To be able to help other children in need is very important to us, and we want to start doing that."

In support of Travis, Peyton and Sutton's journey over the past year – a good amount of which has taken place in Indianapolis in Travis' first full professional baseball season since 2019 – Indianapolis Indians Charities has announced that it will donate \$1,000 to Riley Children's Foundation in support of some of the top NICU care in the state of Indiana.

And in giving back to a community they have called home all summer, Travis and Peyton have matched IIC's donation.

"As Indiana's only ranked comprehensive children's hospital, Riley is one of the

best places for the care of newborns needing intensive care," Alane Helmer, assistant vice president of corporate and foundation giving at Riley Children's Foundation, said. "The addition of our Riley Maternity Tower allows families to be closer together in those critical days right after birth. We appreciate this gift from our longtime partner, the Indianapolis Indians, as it shows their commitment to the tiniest of Hoosiers."

The remainder of the season holds some uncertainty for the Swaggerty family – Travis, a current staple in the Indianapolis lineup each day, Pittsburgh's No. 11 prospect by MLB Pipeline and the organization's first-round draft pick in 2018, is regarded as a core piece to the big-league team's future. His season could end in Triple-A, or he could be roaming the outfield at PNC Park again before the close of 2022.

Amongst all that uncertainty, one thing remains the same: Travis' family will be there cheering him on either from the ballpark or home, with Sutton (hopefully) staying awake for all the biggest moments.

"God has a plan, and [Travis' debut] was so much better with her; her being in all the pictures and her getting to witness it," Peyton said. "She sleeps during all the games, but she did not sleep. She was awake for his first MLB hit. That's so memorable and it's just been so much better. We're so blessed that she's here and healthy."





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