



FIRST-EVER U.S. COMMERCIAL TOUR BY JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL POWERHOUSE TO LAUNCH AT TOYOTA FIELD THIS SPRING

Global Baseball Series & Press Conference Bring Historic U.S.–Japan Partnership to North Alabama

MEDIA ADVISORY: JANUARY 7, 2026

MEDIA ASSETS: [CLICK TO VIEW](#)

MADISON, AL – The Rocket City Trash Pandas, in partnership with TOYOTA Red Cruisers, TOYOTA Motor Manufacturing Alabama, Alabama A&M University, and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, invite you to a historic press conference on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**.

We will unveil details of the Global Baseball Series 2026, an unprecedented international showcase that will bring Japan's elite **TOYOTA Red Cruisers** to North Alabama this spring. This event marks a milestone in international sports and cultural exchange, featuring the first-ever commercial exhibition series by a Japanese Industrial League team on American soil.

WHAT: Press Conference announcing the Global Baseball Series 2026, series logistics, and the historic "USA vs. Japan" Main Event.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

11:00 am: Media Check-in

11:15 am: Formal Presentation & Major Announcement

12:00 pm: Media Breakouts & Individual Interview Opportunities (until 1:00 pm)

WHERE: SportsMED Stadium Club at TOYOTA Field 500 Trash Panda Way, Madison, AL 35758

WHO: Representatives from:

- Rocket City Trash Pandas (Garrett Fahrman, EVP & GM)
- Los Angeles Angels (Player Development)
- TOYOTA Red Cruisers (Japan)
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama
- Alabama A&M University
- University of Alabama in Huntsville

RSVP: Media members are asked to RSVP to Chris Harris at charris@trashpandasbaseball.com by **Monday, January 12**. Food and Beverage will be available.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL BASEBALL SERIES 2026:

More than just an event, this series represents a collective "Challenging Mindset" shared by our regional partners to unite our community through world-class innovation and international competition.

ABOUT THE ROCKET CITY TRASH PANDAS:

The Rocket City Trash Pandas are the Double-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels. They will begin their sixth season in Madison on Friday, April 3, hosting the Biloxi Shuckers at TOYOTA Field. First pitch is scheduled for 6:35 pm, kicking off a three-game Opening Weekend homestand that runs through Sunday, April 5. Since the Trash Pandas took the field in 2021, 46 former Rocket City players have gone on to make their Major League debuts.

ABOUT THE TOYOTA RED CRUISERS:

The Toyota Red Cruisers are the official corporate baseball team of Toyota Motor Corporation, competing in Japan's elite industrial league system and serving as one of the nation's premier development pipelines to professional Japanese baseball and the Samurai Japan national team. Renowned for their consistent success and commitment to excellence, the Red Cruisers play a vital role in producing elite athletes capable of competing on the global stage. The program integrates advanced performance technology developed in collaboration with Toyota Research Institute, utilizing motion capture and biomechanical analytics to create customized training programs that enhance player development. This innovation-driven approach reflects Toyota's broader philosophy of precision, discipline, and **continuous improvement (Kaizen)**. The Red Cruisers' impact is underscored by a proven track record of international achievement, including alums selected to Samurai Japan who have competed in the World Baseball Classic and Olympic Games – earning gold medals at the highest level of international competition. Furthermore, Baseball Hall of Famer Ichiro Suzuki was appointed as Special Assistant to Toyota Chairman Akio Toyoda in 2024, and his involvement is expected to drive the further development of the Red Cruisers.

ABOUT TOYOTA MOTOR MANUFACTURING ALABAMA:

Located in Huntsville and a partner of the Rocket City Trash Pandas since the team's inception, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama began production in 2003 and now assembles more than one-third of Toyota's engines in North America. The facility has created thousands of jobs in the region while underscoring Toyota's commitment to sustainable manufacturing. A driving force in the North Alabama community has contributed over \$24 million in community support.

ABOUT ALABAMA A&M AND UAH:

Alabama A&M University's Bulldogs compete at the NCAA Division I level in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) under head coach **Louis Whitlow**, while the University of Alabama in Huntsville Chargers are a perennial NCAA Division II contender in the Gulf South Conference, led by head coach **Hunter Royer**.

The event highlights Toyota's long-standing partnership with North Alabama and underscores the region's growing reputation as a global hub for sports innovation and international collaboration.

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For additional media information, please contact Chris Harris (charris@trashpandasbaseball.com)