

# THRESHERS TIMES

Volume 16 • Issue 3

Jaydenn Estanista

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- JUNE 13** PHINLEY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY
- JUNE 14** STRIKE OUT CANCER NIGHT
- JUNE 15** FIREWORKS  
BY COPPERTAIL BREWING COMPANY
- JUNE 16** THRESHERS CAP GIVEAWAY  
BY CRIME STOPPERS PINELLAS COUNTY,  
FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION
-  **JUNE 28** BEACH DOGS, THE BLACK HONKEYS BAND  
CONCERT BY TRULY HARD SELTZER
- JUNE 29** INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION  
BY BUDWEISER
- JULY 3** INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION  
BY BUDWEISER

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Of The 2024 Season

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Ballpark

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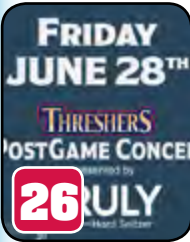


# THRESHERS TIMES



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727-455-9028



# THRESHERS TIMES



## SCHEDULE & PROMOTIONS

| SUN           | MON          | TUE          | WED          | THU          | FRI          | SAT          |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>JUNE</b>   |              |              |              |              |              | LAK<br>6:30p |
| LAK<br>12:00p |              | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p |
| BRD<br>6:30p  | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p |
| TAM<br>12:00p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p |
| JUP<br>12:00p | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p | BRD<br>6:30p |

| DATE    | PROMOTION   |
|---------|---|
| June 1  | First Responders Night and Fireworks by Beachside Hospitality Group |
| June 13 | Phinley's Birthday  |
| June 14 | Strike Out Cancer Night   |
| June 15 | Fireworks by Coppertail Brewing Company                             |
| June 16 | Threshers Cap Giveaway by Crime Stoppers Pinellas County            |
| June 26 | Camp Day #1   |
| June 28 | Beach Dogs, The Black Honkeys Band Concert by Truly Hard Seltzer    |
| June 29 | Independence Day Fireworks Celebration by Budweiser                 |

| SUN           | MON          | TUE          | WED          | THU          | FRI          | SAT          |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| DUN<br>6:30p  | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p |
|               | PMB<br>6:30p | PMB<br>6:30p | PMB<br>6:30p | PMB<br>6:30p | PMB<br>6:30p | PMB<br>6:30p |
| PMB<br>12:00p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p |
| JUP<br>12:00p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p |
| TAM<br>12:00p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p | JUP<br>6:30p |

| DATE    | PROMOTION   |
|---------|---|
| July 3  | Independence Day Fireworks Celebration by Budweiser   |
| July 19 | Beach Dogs, Christmas in July, Snow Globe Giveaway by Todd's Air Conditioning and Refrigeration |
| July 20 | Marvel's Defenders of the Diamond Night, Fireworks by Wawa                                      |
| July 31 | Camp Day #2   |

| SUN           | MON          | TUE          | WED          | THU          | FRI          | SAT          |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>AUGUST</b> |              |              |              |              |              | JUP<br>6:30p |
| JUP<br>12:00p | LAK<br>6:30p | LAK<br>6:30p | LAK<br>6:30p | LAK<br>6:30p | LAK<br>6:30p | LAK<br>6:30p |
| LAK<br>6:30p  | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p | TAM<br>6:30p |
| TAM<br>12:00p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p | DUN<br>6:30p |
| DUN<br>12:00p | FTM<br>6:30p | FTM<br>6:30p | FTM<br>6:30p | FTM<br>6:30p | FTM<br>6:30p | FTM<br>6:30p |

| DATE    | PROMOTION  |
|---------|--|
| Aug. 2  | Veterans and Military Appreciation Night and Camo Cap Giveaway by Kelli's Catering, Phillie Phanatic Visit |
| Aug. 3  | Back to School Bash and Teacher Appreciation, Fireworks by Sysco   |
| Aug. 16 | Justin Crawford Bobblehead Giveaway by Barbaoco Boyz   |
| Aug. 17 | Fireworks  |
| Aug. 23 | Beach Dogs, Ballpark Replica Giveaway by Coppertail Brewing Company  |
| Aug. 24 | Fireworks  |

| SUN           | MON | TUE          | WED          | THU          | FRI          | SAT          |
|---------------|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| FTM<br>6:30p  |     | STL<br>6:30p | STL<br>6:30p | STL<br>6:30p | STL<br>6:30p | STL<br>6:30p |
| STL<br>12:00p |     |              |              |              |              |              |

| DATE    | PROMOTION  |
|---------|--|
| Sept. 6 | Fan Appreciation and Season Rewind Night               |
| Sept. 7 | Largest and Last Fireworks by Little Greek Fresh Grill |

| West Division |                           | East Division |                      |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| CLR           | Clearwater Threshers      | DBT           | Daytona Tortugas     |
| BRD           | Bradenton Marauders       | JUP           | Jupiter Hammerheads  |
| DUN           | Dunedin Blue Jays         | PMB           | Palm Beach Cardinals |
| FTM           | Fort Myers Mighty Mussels | STL           | St. Lucie Mets       |
| LAK           | Lakeland Flying Tigers    |               |                      |
| TAM           | Tampa Tarpons             |               |                      |

Home Game  
  Away Game  
 \* Doubleheader



ThreshersBaseball.com



|  |   |  |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br><br><b>TUESDAY</b><br><br>\$1 BERM TICKET<br>\$1 HOT DOGS<br>\$1 12 OZ. DRAFT<br>AND MORE! | <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br><br><b>SILVER SHARKS</b><br><br><b>SENIORS CLUB</b><br>PRESENTED BY<br> | <b>THURSDAY</b><br><br><br>1/2 PRICE DRINKS<br>INCLUDING 24 OZ<br>CRAFT DRAFTS<br><br>PRESENTED BY<br> | <b>FRIDAY</b><br><b>GIVEAWAYS</b><br><b>CONCERTS</b><br> | <b>SATURDAY</b><br><br><b>FIREWORKS!</b><br>EVERY SATURDAY<br>HOME GAME | <b>SUNDAY</b><br><b>SEASON</b><br><b>TICKET</b><br><b>HOLDERS</b><br><b>EAT FREE</b><br> |
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# THRESHERS TIMES



## THRESHERS GM WELCOME



The Threshers staff and team would like to welcome you to BayCare Ballpark. Whether you are a die-hard baseball fan eager to see some of the game's top prospects or a casual fan who enjoys an affordable and entertaining night out, we strive to bring unbelievable value to all that attend.

We also understand the importance of and are proud to be ingrained in the fabric of our community. It is an honor to represent this beautiful city, and we cherish our nearly 40 years as a Phillies minor league affiliate in Clearwater.

Your support and enjoyment fuel our team members who take pride in providing best-in-class service and a portfolio of great promotions and giveaways.

Please peruse this program to learn more about nightly and season-long happenings. Events are updated regularly, so be sure to visit us at [ThreshersBaseball.com](http://ThreshersBaseball.com) for the latest news.

Thank you for choosing to spend your time with us and please have an incredible experience!

*Jason Adams*

Jason Adams  
Clearwater Threshers General Manager



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Clearwater Threshers Baseball Club  
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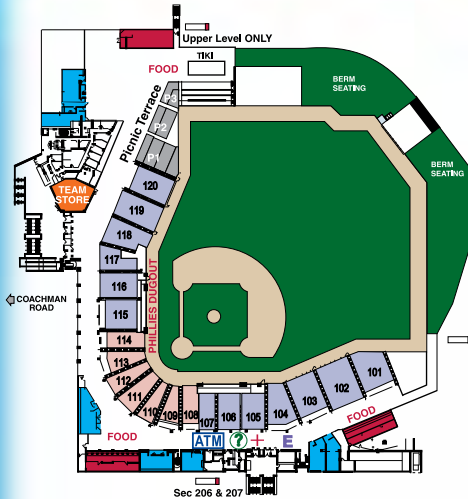




# THRESHERS TIMES



## BAYCARE BALLPARK INFORMATION



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

PA and video board announcements can be arranged for a nominal fee by visiting Guest Services behind Section 106 before the end of the second inning.

### ATM

The ATM is located on the first base side of the concourse behind section 105.

### BAGS & BACKPACKS

Bags can be no larger than 16"x16"x8" and will be subject to inspection upon entry in accordance with Major League Baseball security regulations. Guests may discard or return the prohibited items to their vehicle.

### BATS

Full-size baseball bats are prohibited from entry by guests to the ballpark.

### BERM SEATING

Berm seating is limited and ticketed. Blankets are permitted to be brought into the park for berm seating. Chairs, folding chairs, camp chairs, and the like, are not permitted to be brought into the park.

### CHILD TICKETS

Children 13 and younger qualify for the child's ticket price. For children 4 and younger, please see the BayCare Box Office or a ballpark gate attendant for a complimentary ticket.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE & ADVANCE TICKETS

The Customer Service/Advance Tickets window is located on the first base side of the main concourse behind Section 106. Guests can report problems, check for lost and found items and claim prizes at this location. Tickets for future games may also be purchased here.

### FIRST AID

The First Aid office is located on the first base side of the main concourse behind section 106. Guests can either report to this office or contact an usher if in need of medical assistance.

### FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

No food, bottles, coolers or cans may be brought into the ballpark. The Threshers reserve the right to search any medical or diaper bags entering the ballpark.

### FOUL BALLS

Any foul ball hit into the stands may be kept. Guests are not permitted on the field or to reach into the playing area. Foul balls may be dangerous, so please be alert at all times and aware of the potential hazards.

### GATES OPEN

Ballpark gates will open one hour prior to scheduled game time.

### HANDICAPPED SEATING

Disabled seating is available all throughout the ballpark. Limited wheelchair seating is available through the ticket office in person or on the telephone. One companion seat is available for purchase with each wheelchair space. An elevator is available for disabled use on the first base side of the stadium (South Parking Lot). Drop-off is available on the West Side of the ballpark (no elevator access here). Please contact an usher for assistance entering and exiting the ballpark.

### KIDS ZONE

The left-field concourse features a playground and Kids Zone for our younger guests.

### LOST AND FOUND

Located at Customer Service behind Section 106.

### SENIOR TICKETS

Seniors 55+ may purchase discounted tickets.

### SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited in most areas of the ballpark. Special smoking sections are marked. Smoking is permitted only on the concourse bridge by the right field foul pole and the Tiki Pavilion in left field. For resources to help quit smoking, call 1-877-U-CAN-NOW (1-877-822-6669).

### TEAM STORE

The Threshers Team Store, Diamond Outfitters, is located next to the ballpark's west entry, and features hats, apparel and collectibles to satisfy Threshers fans of all ages. Merchandise available 24 hours a day on-line at ThreshersBaseball.com.

### TIKI PAVILION

The Frenchy's Tiki Pavilion is located beyond the left field wall. It features a variety of mixed drinks, beer and wine for guests 21 and over. Seats in this section are first-come, first-serve during Threshers season.

### WEAPONS

Firearms, weapons, knives, tasers and other dangerous or hazardous devices or substances (collectively "weapons") are prohibited at BayCare Ballpark, unless carried by an on-duty police officer or otherwise expressly approved by The Threshers. Anyone bringing such a weapon to the premises must return it to their vehicle immediately.



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# THRESHERS TIMES



## THRESHERS FRONT OFFICE

Director, Florida Operations: John Timberlake  
General Manager, Clearwater Threshers: Jason Adams  
General Manager, BayCare Ballpark: Doug Kemp  
Senior Manager, Corporate Partnerships: Dan McDonough  
Assistant GM, Clearwater Threshers: Dan Madden  
Manager, Ballpark Operations: Scott Kelyman  
Manager, Clubhouse and Equipment: Justin Glover  
Manager, Community Engagement and Media: Robert Stretch  
Manager, Food and Beverage: Justin Gunsaulus  
Manager, Human Resources - Florida Operations: Karina Cano  
Manager, Maintenance: Sean McCarthy  
Manager, Merchandise: Shan Isett  
Manager, Promotions and Game Entertainment: Dominic Repper  
Manager, Social Media & Fan Engagement: Tori Heck  
Manager, Ticket Operations: Patrick Prevelige  
Assistant Manager, Food and Beverage: Mike O'Soro  
Assistant Manager, Group Sales: Victoria Phipps  
Assistant Manager, Merchandise: Cara Christison  
Assistant Manager, Security Operations: James VonDras  
Assistant Manager, Ticket Operations: Shaylyn Edwards  
Corporate Sales Associate: Cory Sipe  
Coordinator, Ballpark Operations: Will Priest  
Coordinator, Concessions: Alyssa Winans  
Coordinator, Graphic Design: Jill Brush  
Coordinator, Security Operations: Ceci Marceau  
Coordinator, Warehouse: Steve Piatek  
Office Assistant & Receptionist: Leslie Henley  
Assistant, Ballpark Operations: Austin Joyce  
Suites Chef: Jim Blades  
Head Groundskeeper, Florida Operations: Ray Sayre  
Assistant Head Groundskeeper, Florida Operations: Isaac McClain  
Grounds Crew Supervisor, Florida Operations: Paul Tumavitch  
Grounds Crew, Florida Operations: Cody Deegan  
Grounds Crew, Florida Operations: Luke Delany  
Grounds Crew, Florida Operations: Joseph Dorn  
Grounds Crew, Florida Operations: Mikey Klinger  
Grounds Crew, Florida Operations: Lance Weber



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# THRESHERS TIMES



## MARTY MALLOY MANAGER



**Born:** Gainesville, FL

**Resides:** Trenton, FL... Former infielder. Returns to manage Clearwater (A) for 2024. Spent two years as minor league infield coordinator (2020-21) before returning to manage the Threshers in the second half of the 2021 season.

Previously served as a minor league manager for three years with Clearwater (2019) and Lakewood (A, 2017-18). Was the 2022 winner of the John Vukovich Award. Prior to joining

the Phillies, spent four years (2013-16) with the Houston Astros, including three years as the manager for their Gulf Coast League (R) team, one year as the GCL hitting coach and one year as the Florida Instructional League coordinator. Also coached at the amateur level as head coach (two years) and volunteer assistant (six years) for Trenton High School and six years as an infield instructor at Gatorball Baseball Academy in Gainesville, Fla. Played 12 years (1992-2003), including his first eight in the Atlanta Braves minor league system.







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## THRESHERS FIELD STAFF



**TIM COLLINS**

**PITCHING COACH**

Born: Worcester, MA... Resides: Henrico, VA... Former pitcher. Begins his professional coaching career with Clearwater in 2024. His 11-year professional playing career (2007-14, 2017-19) included six seasons in the major leagues with the Royals, Nationals and Cubs.



**GUSTAVO ARMAS**

**PITCHING COACH**

Born: Caracas, VZ... Resides: Guatire, VZ... Former pitcher. Spent seven years (2014-20) in the Phillies minor league system, reaching as high as double-A with Reading in 2019. Advanced in player development roles for the Phillies since 2021.



**CHRIS HEINTZ**

**HITTING COACH**

Born: Syosset, NY... Resides: Tampa, FL... Former catcher. Joined the Phillies player development staff before the 2018 season, added to Clearwater (A) for the 2020 season. Appeared in 34 major league games for the Twins over three seasons (2005-07) after being a White Sox 19th round pick in the 1996 MLB Draft. Four years as a player and five as a coach led to his 2013 induction into the USF Hall of Fame. Graduated from Countryside High School in Clearwater, Fla.



**MYCAL JONES**

**BENCH COACH**

Born: Jacksonville, FL... Resides: Kissimmee, FL... Former infielder/outfielder. Joined Clearwater (A) in 2023, joined the Phillies as a minor league coach in 2020. Was a fourth-round selection of Atlanta in the 2009 MLB Draft, playing seven minor league seasons in their organization. Opened the Mycal Jones Baseball Academy in Naples, Fla., in September 2016.



**JOHN RYAN MURPHY**

**PLAYER DEVELOPMENT INSTRUCTOR**

Born: Bradenton, FL... Resides: Tampa, FL... Former catcher. Joined the Phillies in 2023 as player development instructor, his first coaching position. Originally selected by the New York Yankees in the second round of the June 2009 draft out of the IMG Academy. Played parts of eight seasons in the majors (2013-20, Yankees, Twins, Diamondbacks, Braves, Pirates).



**SAMANTHA MYERS**

**ATHLETIC TRAINER**

Born: Walnut Creek, CA... Resides: Pittsburg, CA... Joined Clearwater (A) as athletic trainer in 2023 after spending the 2022 season on the major league staff as medical operations liaison. Originally joined the Phillies as an athletic trainer in 2020. Is a 2018 graduate of Sacramento State University (CA) and attained her master's degree in applied exercise science and human movement science from Concordia University.



**JOSEPH MIRANDA**

**STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH**

Born: Cincinnati, OH... Resides: Maryville, TN... In his second season with Clearwater (A) following positions since 2014 in the Marlins, Reds and Rockies systems. Earned his master's degree in exercise science from George Washington University (DC). Is a certified strength and conditioning specialist (CSCS) and registered strength and conditioning coach (RCCSS), among other certifications.

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**LOU ALBRECHT**  
**#4**  
 C  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'0" | WT: 207  
 BORN: November 7, 2001  
 RESIDES: Renton, WA  
 2023 CLUB: FCL



**LUIS CAICUTO**  
**#12**  
 C  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 5'10" | WT: 180  
 BORN: March 5, 2003  
 RESIDES: Delray Beach, FL  
 2023 CLUBS: ACL Diamondbacks-B,  
 ACL Diamondbacks-R



**KEATON ANTHONY**  
**#7**  
 INF  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'4" | WT: 227  
 BORN: June 24, 2001  
 RESIDES: Dacula, GA  
 2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**ETHAN CHENAULT**  
**#23**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'5" | WT: 221  
 BORN: March 28, 2001  
 RESIDES: Forest, VA  
 2023 CLUB: UNC Wilmington  
 (NCAA)



**BRANDON BECKEL**  
**#44**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'4" | WT: 215  
 BORN: October 20, 2001  
 RESIDES: San Antonio, TX  
 2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**JACOB EDDINGTON**  
**#28**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'2" | WT: 205  
 BORN: April 26, 2001  
 RESIDES: Ellsinore, MO  
 2023 CLUB: Missouri State  
 University (NCAA)



**PIERCE BENNETT**  
**#18**  
 OF  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'1" | WT: 195  
 BORN: June 28, 2001  
 RESIDES: Rosedale, MD  
 2023 CLUB: FCL



**JAYDENN ESTANISTA**  
**#10**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'2" | WT: 187  
 BORN: October 3, 2001  
 RESIDES: Willemstad, Curacao  
 2023 CLUBS: Threshers, FCL



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## AIDAN MILLER

**#9**

INF

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'2" | WT: 212

BORN: June 9, 2004

RESIDES: Trinity, FL

2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



## JONATHAN PETIT

**#51**

RHP

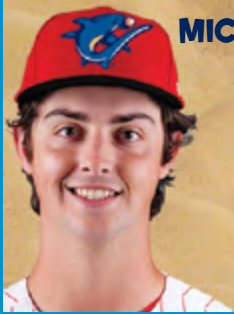
B/T: R/R

HT: 6'2" | WT: 205

BORN: April 19, 2001

RESIDES: Naguanagua, VZ

2023 CLUB: Threshers



## MICAH OTTENBREIT

**#24**

RHP

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'4" | WT: 209

BORN: May 7, 2003

RESIDES: Grosse Ile, MI

2023 CLUB: FCL



## NIKAU POUAKA-GREGG

**#33**

INF

B/T: L/R

HT: 5'9" | WT: 167

BORN: September 13, 2004

RESIDES: Melbourne, AUS

2023 CLUB: DNP (Injured)



## AVERY OWUSU-ASIEDU

**#16**

OF

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'5" | WT: 241

BORN: June 16, 2003

RESIDES: Waukesha, WI

2023 CLUB: FCL



## LUKE RUSSO

**#22**

RHP

B/T: L/R

HT: 6'5" | WT: 211

BORN: February 21, 2001

RESIDES: Howell, MI

2023 CLUB: Eastern Michigan University (NCAA)



## JOSE PEÑA JR.

**#6**

RHP

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'2" | WT: 218

BORN: July 8, 2003

RESIDES: Winter Haven, FL

2023 CLUB: FCL



## DEVIN SALTIBAN

**#11**

INF

B/T: R/R

HT: 5'9" | WT: 185

BORN: February 14, 2005

RESIDES: Las Vegas, NV

2023 CLUB: FCL



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# THRESHERS TIMES



## AIDAN MILLER

**#9**

INF

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'2" | WT: 212

BORN: June 9, 2004

RESIDES: Trinity, FL

2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



## JONATHAN PETIT

**#51**

RHP

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'2" | WT: 205

BORN: April 19, 2001

RESIDES: Naguanagua, VZ

2023 CLUB: Threshers



## MICAH OTTENBREIT

**#24**

RHP

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'4" | WT: 209

BORN: May 7, 2003

RESIDES: Grosse Ile, MI

2023 CLUB: FCL



## NIKAU POUAKA-GREGG

**#33**

INF

B/T: L/R

HT: 5'9" | WT: 167

BORN: September 13, 2004

RESIDES: Melbourne, AUS

2023 CLUB: DNP (Injured)



## AVERY OWUSU-ASIEDU

**#16**

OF

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'5" | WT: 241

BORN: June 16, 2003

RESIDES: Waukesha, WI

2023 CLUB: FCL



## LUKE RUSSO

**#22**

RHP

B/T: L/R

HT: 6'5" | WT: 211

BORN: February 21, 2001

RESIDES: Howell, MI

2023 CLUB: Eastern Michigan University (NCAA)



## JOSE PEÑA JR.

**#6**

RHP

B/T: R/R

HT: 6'2" | WT: 218

BORN: July 8, 2023

RESIDES: Winter Haven, FL

2023 CLUB: FCL



## DEVIN SALTIBAN

**#11**

INF

B/T: R/R

HT: 5'9" | WT: 185

BORN: February 14, 2005

RESIDES: Las Vegas, NV

2023 CLUB: FCL



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# THRESHERS TIMES




**CASEY STEWARD**  
**#35**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'6" | WT: 262  
 BORN: August 2, 2001  
 RESIDES: Wichita, KS  
 2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**BRAYDON TUCKER**  
**#38**  
 RHP  
 B/T: L/R  
 HT: 6'3" | WT: 213  
 BORN: July 19, 1999  
 RESIDES: Brazil, IN  
 2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**SAUL TERAN**  
**#49**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'1" | WT: 192  
 BORN: March 20, 2002  
 RESIDES: Caracas, VZ  
 2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**JORDAN VIARS**  
**#3**  
 OF  
 B/T: L/L  
 6'3" | 224  
 BORN: July 18, 2003  
 RESIDES: Prosper, TX  
 2023 CLUB: Threshers



**JARED THOMAS**  
**#25**  
 C  
 B/T: L/R  
 HT: 5'11" | WT: 189  
 Born: December 3, 2000  
 Resides: Anaheim, CA  
 2023 Clubs: FCL, Threshers



**TJAVY WALTON**  
**#19**  
 OF  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'2" | WT: 237  
 BORN: January 29, 2005  
 RESIDES: Emporia, VA  
 2023 CLUB: FCL



**PAXTON THOMPSON**  
**#29**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'1" | WT: 203  
 BORN: October 5, 1999  
 RESIDES: Richmond Hill, GA  
 2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**BRYSON WARE**  
**#8**  
 INF  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'2" | WT: 207  
 BORN: December 28, 2000  
 RESIDES: Madison, MS  
 2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers





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# THRESHERS TIMES



## THRESHERS STATISTICS

| #  | TEAM BATTING     | POS | AVG  | G  | AB   | R   | H   | HR | RBI | BB  | SO  | SB |
|----|------------------|-----|------|----|------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 3  | Viars, J         | OF  | .232 | 29 | 95   | 16  | 22  | 3  | 14  | 19  | 35  | 1  |
| 4  | Albrecht, L      | C   | .600 | 1  | 5    | 0   | 3   | 0  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0  |
| 7  | Anthony, K       | INF | .316 | 29 | 95   | 13  | 30  | 0  | 12  | 23  | 18  | 3  |
| 8  | Ware, B          | INF | .222 | 34 | 126  | 18  | 28  | 3  | 16  | 9   | 29  | 6  |
| 9  | Miller, A        | INF | .313 | 28 | 112  | 23  | 35  | 4  | 21  | 16  | 29  | 10 |
| 11 | Saltiban, D      | INF | .209 | 34 | 115  | 23  | 24  | 5  | 20  | 17  | 39  | 9  |
| 12 | Caicuto, L       | C   | .245 | 26 | 94   | 12  | 23  | 0  | 16  | 8   | 15  | 1  |
| 16 | Owusu-Asiedu, A  | OF  | .205 | 38 | 132  | 20  | 27  | 2  | 13  | 17  | 57  | 9  |
| 17 | Hettiger, K      | C   | .141 | 22 | 78   | 13  | 11  | 1  | 9   | 19  | 23  | 1  |
| 18 | Bennett, P       | OF  | .261 | 24 | 88   | 17  | 23  | 0  | 13  | 16  | 12  | 3  |
| 19 | Walton, T        | OF  | .237 | 17 | 59   | 8   | 14  | 2  | 12  | 8   | 20  | 4  |
| 25 | Thomas, J        | C   | .237 | 12 | 38   | 3   | 9   | 1  | 7   | 3   | 5   | 0  |
| 27 | Heredia, R       | OF  | .274 | 22 | 84   | 16  | 23  | 2  | 12  | 6   | 33  | 1  |
| 33 | Pouaka-Gregio, N | INF | .306 | 23 | 72   | 14  | 22  | 0  | 10  | 12  | 14  | 0  |
| 43 | Farquhar, T      | INF | .324 | 31 | 102  | 19  | 33  | 1  | 12  | 35  | 25  | 9  |
| 46 | Kotowski, D      | INF | .226 | 26 | 84   | 18  | 19  | 3  | 21  | 10  | 33  | 2  |
|    | Team Total       |     | .251 | 45 | 1466 | 245 | 368 | 30 | 221 | 230 | 416 | 62 |

| #  | TEAM PITCHING | W  | L  | ERA  | G  | GS | SV | IP    | H   | ER  | BB  | SO  |
|----|---------------|----|----|------|----|----|----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 6  | Peña, J       | 3  | 0  | 4.95 | 12 | 0  | 0  | 20.0  | 13  | 11  | 14  | 29  |
| 10 | Estanista, J  | 0  | 0  | 4.42 | 11 | 0  | 0  | 18.1  | 10  | 9   | 15  | 28  |
| 21 | Graves, M     | 5  | 1  | 2.92 | 8  | 7  | 0  | 37.0  | 26  | 12  | 14  | 50  |
| 22 | Russo, L      | 1  | 0  | 4.35 | 7  | 7  | 0  | 31.0  | 27  | 15  | 18  | 44  |
| 23 | Chenault, E   | 1  | 2  | 6.39 | 10 | 0  | 0  | 12.2  | 10  | 9   | 12  | 12  |
| 24 | Ottenbreit, M | 1  | 2  | 4.81 | 7  | 7  | 0  | 33.2  | 32  | 18  | 15  | 31  |
| 26 | Klassen, G    | 2  | 0  | 0.30 | 7  | 7  | 0  | 30.0  | 14  | 1   | 8   | 47  |
| 28 | Eddington, J  | 2  | 0  | 6.28 | 7  | 3  | 0  | 14.1  | 12  | 10  | 18  | 15  |
| 29 | Thompson, P   | 1  | 1  | 4.00 | 11 | 0  | 1  | 18.0  | 21  | 8   | 2   | 18  |
| 30 | Garrett, D    | 1  | 1  | 1.59 | 11 | 0  | 3  | 17.0  | 4   | 3   | 16  | 25  |
| 35 | Steward, C    | 4  | 1  | 2.73 | 8  | 7  | 0  | 33.0  | 26  | 10  | 13  | 30  |
| 38 | Tucker, B     | 2  | 0  | 3.52 | 9  | 5  | 0  | 38.1  | 41  | 15  | 7   | 38  |
| 39 | Bortka, J     | 1  | 2  | 8.44 | 5  | 0  | 0  | 5.1   | 9   | 5   | 3   | 9   |
| 44 | Beckel, B     | 2  | 0  | 4.00 | 11 | 0  | 0  | 18.0  | 15  | 8   | 10  | 18  |
| 47 | Dillard, T    | 1  | 0  | 3.38 | 5  | 0  | 1  | 8.0   | 6   | 3   | 5   | 11  |
| 49 | Teran, S      | 2  | 0  | 0.63 | 12 | 0  | 7  | 14.1  | 11  | 1   | 9   | 22  |
| 50 | Hopewell, C   | 0  | 2  | 6.75 | 11 | 0  | 2  | 13.1  | 17  | 10  | 6   | 14  |
| 51 | Petit, J      | 0  | 0  | 3.38 | 7  | 1  | 0  | 13.1  | 12  | 5   | 6   | 12  |
|    | Team Total    | 32 | 13 | 3.91 | 45 | 45 | 15 | 391.0 | 324 | 170 | 198 | 475 |

\*Roster and statistics are from a list of qualified players through May 26.

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## FRIDAYS

**April 26**

Dog tickets benefit the Humane Society of Pinellas.  
Postgame Whiskey County Concert by Truly Hard Seltzer.

**May 31**

Dog tickets benefit K9 Partners for Patriots.  
Pitch for Pink and beach bag giveaway by Banquet Masters.

**June 28**

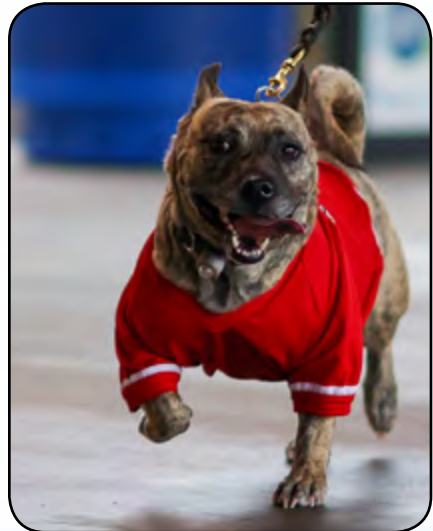
Dog tickets benefit Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People).  
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**July 19**

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Christmas in July with Snow Globe Giveaway  
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**August 23**

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# THRESHERS TIMES



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 GM: Bob McLane  
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# THRESHERS TIMES



## THRESHERS UPCOMING OPPONENTS



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**Manager: James Cooper**

*Saul Teran*



**Bradenton Marauders**  
**June 25 - 30**  
**Affiliate: Pittsburgh Pirates**  
**BradentonMarauders.com**  
**Manager: Jim Horner**

*Casey Steward*



**Dunedin Blue Jays**  
**July 1 - 3**  
**Affiliate: Toronto Blue Jays**  
**DunedinBlueJays.com**  
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## HOW TO SCORE

### Scoring Basics...

Different fans have different methods of keeping a scorecard, and many use their own notations. But here's a simple method...

If the hitter grounds out to shortstop, for example, write in "6-3," which shows the shortstop threw him out at first base. If the hitter flies out to left field, write a "7."

If the batter gets a hit, write in the hit according to which base he reached. Each corner of the box represents a base, with the lower-right corner being first.

If he singles, put a "-" in the lower right. If he doubles, write a "=" in the upper right, and so on. For a walk, use "BB" in the lower right. As the runner advances, mark the appropriate symbol in the appropriate corner.

If a runner scores, put a circle at the bottom of the box, and inside the circle put the symbol of the play and/or the player that drove him in. For example, if the No. 5 hitter drives in two runs with a single, mark his single in the bottom right of his box and mark a circle with the number "5" in it in the boxes of the runners who score. (Some people like to use uniform numbers here, so you can tell who did what, even after lineup changes).

At the end of each inning, total the hits and runs for that inning only. At the end of the game you'll be able to add the innings total to get the game score.

| Symbols for Play      |           |                 |     |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----|
| Single                | S or —    | Passed Ball     | PB  |
| Double                | D or ==   | Struck Base     | SB  |
| Triple                | T or ==   | Double Play     | DP  |
| Home Run              | HR or ==  | Error           | E   |
| Sacrifice             | SH or SAC | Sacrifice Fly   | SF  |
| Walk                  | BB        | Interbatal Walk | IBW |
| Strikeout             | K         | Foul Fly        | FF  |
| Called Out on Strikes | X         | Force Out       | FO  |
| Balk                  | BK        | Line Drive      | L   |
| Fielder's Choice      | FC        | Bunt            | B   |
| Hit by Pitch          | HP        | Unassisted      | U   |
| Wild Pitch            | WP        |                 |     |

### Example Scorecard...

#### 1st Inning

- Singled, advanced on next batter's walk, took 3rd on fielder's choice; scored on #4 batter's double.
- Walked; later forced out, shortstop to 2nd base.
- Reached on fielder's choice; advanced to 3rd on next batter's double; scored on #5 batter's single.
- Doubled; scored on #5 batter's single.
- Singled; advanced to 2nd on next batter's single; stole 3rd base; thrown out on grounder, shortstop to catcher.
- Singled; stole 2nd base.
- Reached 1st base on fielder's choice.
- Popped out to 2nd base.

| Team Batting Order   | 1 | 2  |
|----------------------|---|----|
| 1. Center Fielder    | 1 | F  |
| 2. Shortstop         | 2 | 6  |
| 3. 1st Baseman       | 3 | FC |
| 4. 3rd Baseman       | 4 | 2  |
| 5. Right Fielder     | 5 | 2  |
| 6. Left Fielder      | 6 | 2  |
| 7. Designated Hitter | 7 | FC |
| 8. 2nd Baseman       | 8 | 4  |
| 9. Catcher           | 9 | 1  |
|                      | 5 | 4  |

### Defensive Players by the Numbers...



- Pitcher
- Catcher
- First Baseman
- Second Baseman
- Third Baseman
- Shortstop
- Left Fielder
- Center Fielder
- Right Fielder

#### 2nd Inning

- Leads-off with double.
- Flied out to centerfield.
- Popped out to shortstop.
- Struckout swinging.



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## Player Spotlight: Jaydenn Estanista

*How a Position Shift Late in His Youth Helped Jaydenn Estanista Turn Pro*

**By Josh Sperber**



You can't always get what you want in life. This is the subject of many songs and even more parental lessons (at least the latter was the case for the writer of this article). But how long does it take for a person to alter their dream to help it come true? Many will always make slight tweaks to their goals as they learn more about what it takes to achieve them, and others are too stubborn to make any changes to their original plan, often to its downfall.

If life tells us anything, sacrifices must be made to achieve one's dreams. This is especially true in baseball, and probably for any athlete with a dream of making it to the big leagues. Threshers' pitcher Jaydenn Estanista may just be at the beginning of his road to the show, but he has already made some sacrifices as he continues his climb from the minor leagues to the major leagues.

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Beginning your adult life far from home to start your career is certainly a sacrifice that many make, and Estanista is no exception. He was born on the small island of Curaçao, located on the Dutch Caribbean northwest of the Venezuelan coast. Baseball has become extremely popular on the island, with multiple major league stars such as Ozzie Albies and Kenley Jansen hailing from there.

Jaydenn's father played baseball professionally on the island. His dad is still pitching in local leagues in his 50s, as he was an only child and elected to stay home with his family in Curaçao instead of traveling to the United States to chase his dream of playing in the major leagues.

Jaydenn quickly followed in his father's footsteps, playing baseball in his neighborhood around the age of seven and quickly rising through the ranks of youth leagues on the island.

Estanista did not begin as a pitcher, initially gravitating to third base and outfield because of his strong arm and his love for hitting. His father also played third base, so it seemed like a natural choice in position for Jaydenn. "I never thought that I would be a professional pitcher, I thought I would break through as a hitter," said Estanista of his beginnings as a position player.

Though he wasn't a power hitter, Estanista made solid contact and was strong in the field with a great throwing arm. As he rose







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through the selection system, he played in tournaments around the Caribbean primarily as a third baseman. When he turned 16, it was time to really focus on his future in the game.

At 16, a player can be selected for the national team circuit of Curaçao, giving the best players on the island the chance to play on. The scouting process also ramps up as there are more eyes on the top talent from the area. Jaydenn was one of the many players trying to move up the ranks and make the selection roster for Curaçao. His hitting was solid, but his arm is what really impressed the scouts for the selection. “I was skinny, so I wasn’t hitting the ball that hard or hitting home runs for the scouts,” Estanista said of his experience during these tryouts. “I threw 92-93 and my dad told me I needed to focus on pitching full time.”

Estanista’s experience at third and in the outfield paid off, and his arm was strong enough to reach the low-90s on the radar gun when he threw. But Jaydenn was so dedicated to making it as a hitter that he did not want to make the switch. It became clear that pitching offered him a brighter future in baseball, but Jaydenn became so discouraged with the position change that he considered giving up baseball.

The game of baseball is really a family business for Jaydenn, with his father being a local professional player and his cousin, Wendell Floranus, a professional pitcher. When Estanista informed his family that he didn’t want to make the change to pitcher, they immediately tried to reason with him. “They wanted me to pitch, and I just wanted to hit. My family saw I had a strong arm and said I should go for it, so my cousin and my dad

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# THRESHERS TIMES



pushed me back into the game and I became a pitcher full time.”

After almost a year out of baseball, Estanista was finally convinced to restart his career and focused on pitching. Back in the selection process, his velocity on the mound was already reaching the low-to-mid-90s, peaking at 93 miles per hour after just a matter of months. His natural talent on the mound attracted more than just the Curaçao selection.

Jaydenn was almost 17 when he switched to pitching full time and was already attracting attention from major league teams. The Pirates and Phillies were the two most persistent suitors. Ultimately, he felt most comfortable with the Phillies, who showed

great interest in his talent and were confident that he could be a future major leaguer in Philadelphia.

Nearly a month after he turned 18, and around six months after he made the switch to pitching full time, Estanista signed his first professional contract with the Philadelphia Phillies, and began his career in the Dominican Summer League.

The language barrier was a challenge at first for Jaydenn, as he grew up speaking primarily Dutch and Papiamentu, the native language of Curaçao. He had to learn Spanish for the Dominican Summer League and English as he moved up the Phillies system over to the United States. “I learned Spanish more when I was in the Dominican,



*continued page 46*



# GROUP OUTINGS

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I was the only guy from Curaçao there, so I had to speak Spanish with the guys,” Jaydenn said of his challenges learning new languages. “When I came back here in the instructional league, I had to speak English so that helped me practice my English more.”

The already-multilingual Estanista quickly mastered both the Spanish and English languages, and his pitching talent was progressing well too. After one season in the Dominican Summer League, he was promoted to the Florida Complex League on the day he turned 20 in 2021.

The Phillies were not the only team that noticed Jaydenn’s talent on the mound. When 2023 came along, nations around the world were building their rosters for the World Baseball Classic. As Curaçao is a Dutch Caribbean nation, he was eligible to play for the Netherlands national team. Curaçao did not have a team in the WBC, and Estanista was chosen to represent the Netherlands on one of baseball’s biggest stages, along with his cousin Wendall Floranus.

“That was the best experience ever for me,” Jaydenn said of the 2023 World Baseball Classic. “I never thought that I would make it to the World Baseball Classic, so it’s an experience I will never forget in my life.” He only made one appearance for the Dutch, as they were eliminated in the group stage of the competition. Estanista certainly made his mark, however, tossing 2.0 shutout innings with one strikeout in a start against Italy, the eventual champions of the group that the Netherlands were in.

Jaydenn faced major league and high-level minor-league competition in the WBC, with the Italian Team, coached by Mike Piazza, featuring big league bats such as Vinnie Pasquantino of the Royals and former first-round pick Sal Frelick, who debuted in the Majors for the Milwaukee Brewers later that year. “There were some major league and double-A guys, so it was hard, but I wasn’t scared. I just threw against whoever I played and showed that I’m a professional too,” Estanista said of his WBC experience. “When I came back here, I brought that same mentality, just giving all I can and continuing to prove myself.”

Estanista began the 2023 season with the Threshers and began the season as the Phillies #27 prospect. He excelled at the start of his first summer in full-season minor league baseball, tossing 3.0 shutout innings and earned the win in his 2023 game debut. Though injuries complicated his first season in Clearwater, it is explicitly clear that he could make an impact on the mound in the Phillies system. Jaydenn, his family, and anyone else who has seen him pitch knows that his career is only just getting started.





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# THRESHERS TIMES



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## Player Spotlight: Luis Caicuto

*Luis Caicuto Enjoys and Excels in the Beginning of His Career*

By Josh Sperber



My elementary school gym teacher had the phrase “If you had fun, you won,” posted on the wall in gym class. While that may not always be true on the scoreline in professional sports, it is always important to have fun when playing a game like baseball. There is a professional element but playing a game for a living can be fun, and the players can still enjoy themselves when they are on the field.

With the primary focus in minor league baseball on player development, it is easy to see when players enjoy themselves as they learn the steps and skills necessary to take their game to the next level. When anyone turns pro, there are always some obstacles to pure enjoyment, such as seeing friends sign or get traded elsewhere, or during any tough stretch on the field. Threshers’ catcher Luis Caicuto has experienced a lot in his short professional career, but he is always playing and training with a smile on his face.

Caicuto grew up in Venezuela, a country with a massive interest in baseball. Though baseball was created in the United States and is America’s national pastime, it has become ingrained in the Venezuelan culture. From an early age, Venezuelan children are introduced to the game, often earlier than many kids in the US pick up a bat and glove.

“People play a lot of baseball in Venezuela, and it moves a lot faster than it does here. From five years old you’re playing full on in Little League with a pitcher and everything,” said Caicuto. At that age in the United States, many kids are still playing tee ball, and Caicuto’s interest in baseball began before he started playing. His father played second and third base most of his life and introduced the game to Luis when he was around three. As long as he can remember, Luis has been avidly following and playing baseball.

Luis was always watching MLB games and attending Venezuelan Professional Baseball League games as a kid, looking up to Venezuelan legends like Miguel Cabrera, Omar Vizquel, and Bobby Abreu. “Ever since I was a kid my dad would always have the games on, I’d go to the stadiums for winter ball games [in Venezuela] all the time, I was always watching baseball.” It wasn’t long until he was playing baseball, starting as early as he could and playing multiple positions.

Caicuto’s talent was evident from the beginning, as he played multiple positions with ease and moved all over the field even when he went to his baseball academy. The



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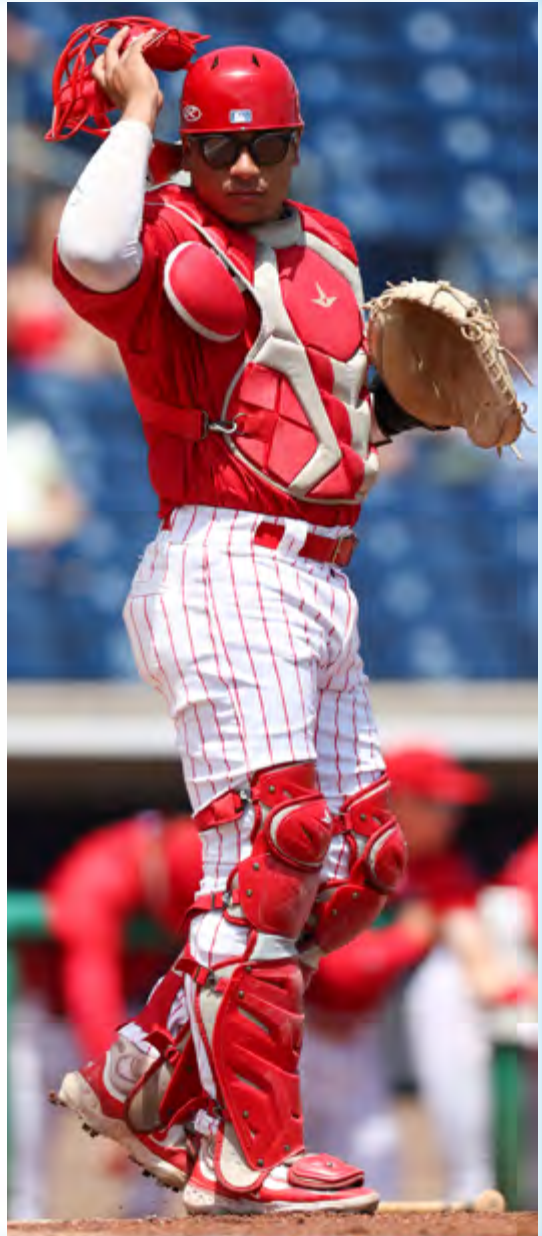


only position he didn't play was pitcher because his dad wanted him to save his strong arm to stay healthy and play longer. "I liked catching the most," Caicuto said of his reasoning behind choosing catcher as his position. "I really liked being the leader and feeling in control of the game." His talent was quickly noticed, and he was recruited to the nearby Sport Talent Baseball Academy when he was a teenager.

Staying close to home was certainly helpful for Caicuto, but Sport Talent featured many instructors who had professional experience in various professional leagues across the Americas. "I learned a lot of discipline, how to take care of my body, so many things that I didn't think about in little league," Caicuto said of his time at Sport Talent. "I learned so many things there that made me a better player and a better person."

Caicuto was ready for showcases and elite tournaments around the age of 14, taking his lessons to the field and impressing scouts from the major leagues. He had multiple tryouts with big-league clubs, but the Arizona Diamondbacks took the most interest in him. Caicuto had six or seven tryouts with the Diamondbacks, many of them being one-on-one, and noticed their desire to sign him.

It took a surprise move during a showcase game to push him over the edge. "They asked me to catch for them in the middle of the game in the showcase I was in. I went behind the plate, and I caught two innings. I felt like



*continued page 54*



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it went well, so that night I made the decision to sign.” One week later, he was off to the Dominican Republic to train with Arizona’s Dominican Summer League team.

Caicuto signed in July of 2019, and didn’t play in a DSL game in the year he signed his first contract. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, he trained with a respected trainer of MLB players, Nestor Moreno. During that period, he took his game to the next level, and headed into 2021 feeling even more prepared to begin his first full season as a professional baseball player.

Most young signings from Spanish speaking countries begin their professional careers in the DSL, but by 2021 the Diamondbacks felt Caicuto was advanced enough to skip that level and go straight to the Arizona Complex League. Arizona is one of the few major league teams with multiple levels in the Complex Leagues, with three teams in the Arizona Complex League competing at the rookie level. “It was difficult because I didn’t have a lot of chances to play, but I learned a lot and it really

prepared me well as I moved up in Rookie Ball.”

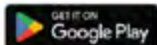
Though catching was his primary position, he played all over the field in rookie ball. By 2023, Caicuto had moved up to the highest-level team in the Diamondbacks Complex League trio and was excelling on the field.

After the season, Caicuto decided to come home to Venezuela to see his family, and because his mother asked him to, he couldn’t say no. His trip back home was at the beginning of December, the same day as the Rule 5 Draft. Not thinking about his unprotected contract, he went home to see his family and was traveling during the draft. It wasn’t until he had reached home that he realized he would be changing teams upon his return to the United States.

“When I got back home, I didn’t have WiFi or any kind of internet. When I finally got back online, I had a bunch of messages,” Caicuto said of his Rule 5 draft experience. “One message was from the MiLB coordinator for



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# THRESHERS TIMES



the Diamondbacks congratulating me on being selected in the Rule 5 draft. I got a message from the Phillies too and felt so welcomed and excited to be part of the Phillies.” A new challenge and a new chapter in his career was about to begin, as he was one of four catchers selected in the Phillies’ five picks in the Rule 5 Draft. Adding those to the catchers already around Luis’ age in the Phillies system, there was some competition ahead, but Caicuto was ready for the next step in his professional career.

Caicuto was prepared for more humid weather and a slightly more northern part of Florida. He had done a lot of workouts and showcases in Miami, and his parents took him to Disney World as a kid, but reporting to Phillies camp was his first time in Clearwater. He had been learning English since reporting to Arizona, so the language barrier wasn’t as much of an issue when he began meeting his new teammates. But a cross-country move such as the one he made is always difficult.

Caicuto started hot with the Phillies, reaching base in each of his first 15 games with the Threshers in his inaugural season in the Phillies Organization. He became a hit with the fans and players in Clearwater and is an integral part of the Threshers’ strong locker room chemistry. “I love being here, the fans are great, I love sharing this experience with the players and staff. I really feel like this team is my family so I’m going to have fun and enjoy this experience with the Phillies.”

Though Caicuto played all over the infield in Arizona, the Phillies have kept him as a catcher in Clearwater to start the next step of his career in this new organization. It is easy to see him bonding well with his teammates, especially the pitchers on the Threshers staff. Always playing and training with a smile on his face, Caicuto is enjoying his second stop in his professional career, and with his early success as a Thresher, he is sure to be an integral part of the Phillies organization.



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The Clearwater Lions Club is a local charitable organization. As part of Lions Club International, their primary focus is providing eye care services like glasses and surgeries to those in need.

The Clearwater Lions Club are strong supporters of the Southeastern Guide Dogs, who provide service dogs to those in need. Several combat wounded Veterans have received service dogs sponsored by the Club. The Club also fundraises to support the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research, who are a cutting-edge worldwide leader in eye research and have the largest eye bank in the world. This amazing facility is located in Ybor City.

However, the Club's efforts extend to many worthy causes in the local area. Nearly every dollar collected goes back to serve our local community. Recipients of their charitable endeavors include the Women on the Way, Clearwater Free Clinic, Healthy Start, the High Point Community Center, RCS Food Bank, and Sheriff's Youth Ranch. The Club hosts many fundraising events throughout the year.

Clearwater Lions Club is always looking for eager members and supporters. For more information on how to support Clearwater Lions Club or to inquire about being a member please contact President Mike Murphy at 727-678-5326.



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## Player Spotlight: Avery Owusu-Asiedu

*Hard to Overlook*

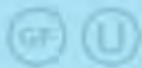
By Josh Sperber



Every athlete has a different journey to prominence in the professional ranks. There are some that get lucky and can say they did everything close to home as they rose to amateur, collegiate, and professional levels of their sport. Some end up as journeymen and never find a home in one city or with one specific team throughout their career. Others end up somewhere in the middle, bouncing around for a short or long while before they find a place where they can call home.

Through multiple moves as a child, and an increasing amount of training and hard work as a growing adult, Avery Owusu-Asiedu has gone to great lengths to get where he is in the Phillies organization, and he is just getting started.





# Surfside

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Avery was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, but has lived in the United States most of his life. He lived in Canada for the first four to five years of his childhood before his family moved again due to his father's work. They lived outside of London, England, for a year before settling in his hometown of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Waukesha was closer to his mother's family in Canada, and it was a good fit for the Owusu-Asiedu family. It was there that Avery's athletic career truly took off.

When his family moved to Wisconsin, Avery was six years old and hadn't really started playing organized sports. He came from an athletic family; his mother

was a basketball player and his father played soccer growing up. His brother ended up playing both sports, and so did Avery. He didn't have a familial baseball background to build on, but he began playing around ten years old.

"Some of the kids in the neighborhood were playing [baseball] so I figured I'd try it out," Avery said of the introduction. He grew up following the closest Major League team to Waukesha, the Milwaukee Brewers. While he remained invested in playing and watching baseball whenever he could, Avery also continued his family traditions, playing center back in soccer and center in basketball, due to his size and strength.

As a high-schooler measuring six-foot-five, Owusu-Asiedu was always bigger than most of his classmates and always very athletic. He played three sports, one in every season through high school. It wasn't until he moved to a higher-level summer baseball team that baseball started to become a priority in Avery's athletic career.

"When I got to high school I changed to a different summer team, and that team had an indoor hitting facility that was around five minutes from our house," Said Avery. "After school I would go hit there, even before school sometimes, weekends I was always there." He would spend any free moment at the STiKS Academy facility, and it became Avery's home away from home.

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Avery always played outfield and was occasionally shifted to first base because of his size, citing all-star outfielders Mike Trout and Ryan Braun as some of the athletes he looked up to growing up. His baseball career was progressing even while playing soccer and basketball in the offseason. By his junior year he was getting looks from multiple collegiate scouts. Oftentimes, NCAA Division I prospects are also tabbed as potential high school draft picks, but, surprisingly, Owusu-Asiedu was not one of those select few. “I was still kind of young, I wasn’t really developed yet,” Owusu-Asiedu said of making his decision on playing at the next level. “If I could have, I would have, but I didn’t really have a lot of opportunities to go pro out of high school.”

Avery’s hard work only intensified, increasing the frequency of his trips to STiKS after his soccer or basketball

games and even before classes started for the day in high school. His hard work and dedication paid off, as he committed to Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville. His next step towards becoming a professional began at a DI school a matter of hours away from where he grew up.

His collegiate career began quickly, playing right away for SIUE as a regular starter his first year of college. He started 40 of 43 games in his first season, but his development was still ongoing. “I struggled a lot my freshman year, the speed of the game was just tough for me,” Owusu-Asiedu said of his adjustment from high school to college. “I think I showed flashes here and there, but I wasn’t very consistent.” The flashes turned into massive growth in his sophomore year, improving his numbers in nearly every statistical category in his second year.



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# THRESHERS TIMES



Avery earned a chance to play summer baseball after his sophomore year, getting a spot with the Elizabethton River Riders in the Appalachian League. He had an OPS of .965 with ten home runs in 40 games with the River Riders, both season-highs throughout his three years of summer collegiate league baseball. It was then that professional scouts began to take notice of his talent, and he leapt on to draft boards of multiple MLB teams.

His second-year momentum continued into his junior year of college, where he started all 53 games in the outfield for SIUE and set a school record for most stolen bases in a Division I season with 24, in what became his final year of college. After little pro scouting out of high school, he had multiple major league teams interested in him after the 2023 NCAA season.

The Phillies area scout had been in regular contact with Avery throughout the draft process. As he sat down to watch the draft with his family, he had an idea, but wasn't sure where he would be picked. Surely enough, the Phillies came calling in the ninth round. "I was just so excited, so grateful, but I knew I wanted to keep going so I can play as long as I can." It was a quick turnaround, as he made the move to Clearwater within a week after his name was called.

Not all members of a team's draft class get to play in the season immediately following the draft, but Avery was one of the first to make the jump directly to

the Florida Complex League. He quickly impressed his coaches and coordinators with his speed and power, driving in 14 runs in just 13 games in his first season as a pro. His rise through the Phillies minor league ranks continued to move quickly, as he began 2024 as the everyday centerfielder for the Threshers.

Any hype or praise he has received has only served as motivation for Avery to keep working harder. "I just want to play as much as I can and get better every day to help my team win." If he continues to work this hard, winning will continue to be a regular occurrence for Avery in his pro career as he continues to work towards his goal of reaching the major leagues.



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# THRESHERS TIMES



## Threshers Silver Sharks

The Silver Sharks presented by BayCare is a club designed for Seniors 55+ that meets during most Wednesday Threshers Home Games.

Members receive many benefits while enjoying the fun and excitement of Minor League Baseball. A Silver Sharks membership is only \$30 per senior per season.

Register for the club at [ThreshersBaseball.com](http://ThreshersBaseball.com), the BayCare Box Office, or customer service, behind section 106.

### Silver Sharks Receive:

- Free Ticket & Parking to 10 Wednesday Home Games
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- Subscription to the Threshers' email newsletter to stay up-to-date on all club and team events

### 2024 Silver Sharks Schedule

| DATE     | TIME       | OPPONENT   | DATE        | TIME       | OPPONENT  |
|----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| April 10 | 6:30 p.m.  | Fort Myers | June 26     | 12:00 p.m. | Bradenton |
| April 24 | 6:30 p.m.  | Bradenton  | July 31     | 12:00 p.m. | Jupiter   |
| May 15   | 12:00 p.m. | Daytona    | August 14   | 6:30 p.m.  | Tampa     |
| May 29   | 6:30 p.m.  | Lakeland   | August 21   | 6:30 p.m.  | Dunedin   |
| June 12  | 6:30 p.m.  | Tampa      | September 4 | 6:30 p.m.  | St. Lucie |

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# THRESHERS TIMES



The Lil' Anglers Kids Club Thursdays presented by BayCare Kids meets on Thursday nights in 2024 and is designed for children 13 and younger to enjoy the fun and excitement of Minor League Baseball at BayCare Ballpark. Members receive free admission to Thursday home games and are invited to Thursday Night activities like Phinley's Birthday Party.

### The Lil' Anglers Kids Club includes:

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## Lil' Anglers Kids Club Thursdays

| DATE     | TIME      | OPPONENT   | DATE        | TIME      | OPPONENT  |
|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| April 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Fort Myers | June 27     | 6:30 p.m. | Bradenton |
| April 25 | 6:30 p.m. | Bradenton  | August 1    | 6:30 p.m. | Jupiter   |
| May 16   | 6:30 p.m. | Daytona    | August 15   | 6:30 p.m. | Tampa     |
| May 30   | 6:30 p.m. | Lakeland   | August 22   | 6:30 p.m. | Dunedin   |
| June 13  | 6:30 p.m. | Tampa      | September 5 | 6:30 p.m. | St. Lucie |

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