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## SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS

## **2021 SCHEDULE**

s	M	7	W	7	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 @evp	8 @cvi
		@SYR 6:35P	@SYR 6:35P	@SYR 6:35P	@SYR 6:35P	@\$YH 6:35H
9 @SYR 1:05P	10	11 LHV 6:35P	12 LHV 6:35P	13 LHV 6:35P	14 LHV 6:35P	15 LHI 4:051
16 LHV 1:05P	17	18 @ROC 7:05P	19 @ROC 1:05P	20 @ROC 7:05P	21 @ROC 7:05P	22 @ROU 5:051
23 @ROC 1:05P	24	25 BUF 6:35P	26 BUF 6:35P	27 BUF 6:35P	28 BUF 6:35P	29 BU 4:051
30 BUF 1.050	31	0.001	0,00,	0,00,	-,,,,,	7,007

#### JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 LHV 6:35P	2 LHV 6:35P	3 LHV 6:35P	4 LHV 6:35P	5   II   4:0:
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
LHV		@TRN	@TRN	@TRN	@TRN	@TI
1:05P		7:00P	7:00P	7:00P	7:00P	6:31
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
@TRN		SYR	SYR	SYR	SYR	S
1:00P		7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	6:0:
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
SYR		@LHV	@LHV	@LHV	@LHV	@L
1:05P		7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	6:3:
27 @LHV 1:35P	28	29 @WOR 6:35P	30 @WOR 6:35P			

#### IIIIV

S	M	7	W	7	F	S
				1 @WOR 6:35P	2 @WOR 6:35P	<i>3</i> <i>@WOR</i> <i>4:05P</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
@WOR		SYR	SYR	SYR	SYR	SYR
6:35P		7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	6:05P
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
SYR		@WOR	@WOR	@WOR	@WOR	@WOR
1:05P		6:35P	6:35P	6:35P	6:35P	4:05P
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
@WOR		ROC	ROG	ROC	ROC	ROC
1:05P		7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	6:05P
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
ROC		@SYR	@SYR	@SYR	@SYR	@SYR
1:05P		6:35P	6:35P	6:35P	6:35P	6:35P

#### AUGUST

S	M	T	W	7	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
@SYR		Wor	Wor	Wor	Wor	Wor
1:05P		7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	6:05P
8	<b>g</b>	10	11	12	13	14
Wor		LHV	LHV	LHV	LHV	LHV
1:05P		7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	6:05P
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
LHV		@WOR	@WOR	@WOR	@WOR	@WOR
1:05P		6:35P	6:35P	6:35P	6:35P	4:05P
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
@WOR		@LHV	@LHV	@LHV	@LHV	@LHV
1:05P		7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	7:05P	6:35P
29 @LHV 1:35P	30	31 BUF 7:05P				

#### SEPTEMBER

S	M	7	W	7	F	S
			1 BUF 7:05P	2 BUF 7:05P	3 BUF 7:05P	4 BUF 6:05P
5 BUF 1:05P	6	7 ROC 7:05P	8 ROC 7:05P	9 ROC 7:05P	10 ROC 7:05P	11 ROC 6:05P
12 ROC 1:05P	13	14 @LHV 7:05P	15 @LHV 7:05P	16 @LHV 7:05P	17 @LHV 7:05P	18 @LHV 6:35P
19 @LHV 1:35P	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	<i>2</i> 7	28	29	<i>30</i>		

#### 2021 Triple-A Northeast Opponents

BUF/	Buffalo Bisons
TRN	Trenton Thunder (Toronto Blue Jays)

LHV Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Philadelphia Phillies

ROC Rochester Red Wings (Washington Nationals)

WOR Worcester Red Sox (Boston Red Sox)



# 2021 GUIDERAIL

Volume Eight- Issue Three

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Scranton/Wilkes-Barre infielder Hoy Park signed with the Yankees in 2014 and has reached Triple-A this season.

His journey here has helped him develop into a solid player and his prescence in the lineup is felt on a nightly basis. It is almost hard to imagine the team without him.

Read more on page 22.

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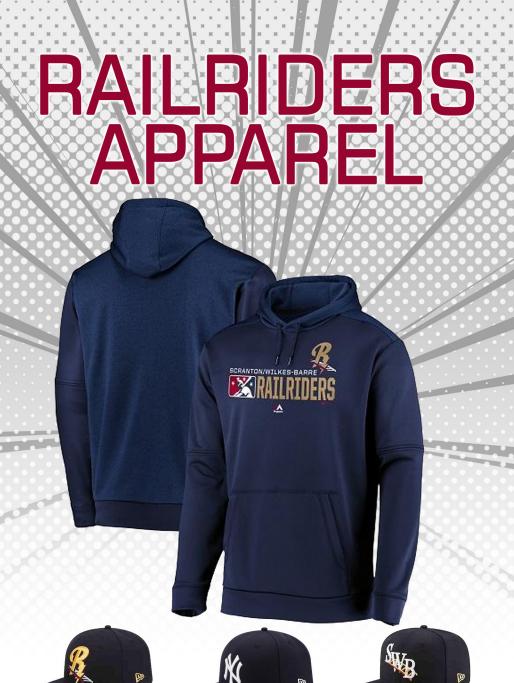
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	Account Executive, Premium Sales



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## DOUG DAVIS

BORN: SEPTEMBER 24, 1962 RESIDES: BLOOMSBURG, PA YEARS WITH NYY: 4

DID YOU KNOW?: DAVIS' FIRST MANAGER IN THE MINOR LEAGUES WAS HAZLETON, PA NATIVE JOE MADDON, WHO EVENTUALLY LED THE CHICAGO CUBS TO THE 2016 WORLD

It was announced January 27, 2020, that Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania native and Central Columbia High School graduate Doug Davis will manage the RailRiders for the 2021 season. He is the 13th manager in SWB franchise history, and just the fifth in Yankees-era history (2007-Present). He joins Dave Miley (2007-15), Al Pedrique (16-17), Bobby Mitchell (2018) and Jay Bell (2019) as SWB skippers to serve under the Yankees affiliation.

Davis enjoyed an 11-year professional career, which included spending parts of two years in Major League Baseball. He spent three seasons coaching with the RailRiders under three different managers, serving as the Defensive Coach in 2017 under Pedrique, the Bullpen Coach in 2018 under Mitchell and the Bench Coach in 2019 under Bell.

Davis, 58, has been in coaching since 1995, serving as a minor league manager for eight seasons. As a manager, he owns a career 515-484 record including championships with Pittsfield in the NY-Penn League in 1997 and Capital City (Columbia, SC) in the South Atlantic League in 1998. From 2007-2016 he was on staff in the Toronto Blue Jays system and before that he spent two seasons in the big leagues as the Florida Marlins bench coach from 2003-04, winning the World Series against the Yankees in 2003 with former SWB Pitching Coach Tommy Phelps on the roster.

In between coaching stints, Davis served as the Minor League Field Coordinator for the Montreal Expos (2001), Florida Marlins (2002, 2005), and Toronto Blue Jays (2009-2016).



Selected in the ninth round of the 1984 MLB Draft out of

NC State, the former catcher played professionally for 11 seasons between 1984 and 1994 in the minor league systems of California, Kansas City and Texas. He made it to the big leagues on two separate occasions, scoring one run in six games with the Angels in 1988 and he collected a hit in his only MLB at-bat with the Rangers in 1992.

#### **DOUG DAVIS - MINOR LEAGUE MANAGERIAL RECORD**

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	RECORD	FINISH	ORGANIZATION	PLAYOFFS
1996	Pittsfield Mets	New York-Penn League	46-29	2nd McNamara Div.	New York (NL)	Lost in 1st round
1997	Pittsfield Mets	New York-Penn League	42-32	1st McNamara Div.	New York (NL)	League Champions
1998	Capital City Bombers	South Atlantic League	90-51	1st Central Div.	New York (NL)	League Champions
1999	Binghamton Mets	Eastern League	54-88	6th Northern Div.	New York (NL)	
2000	Binghamton Mets	Eastern League	82-58	1st Northern Div.	New York (NL)	Lost in 1st round
2006	New Hampshire Fisher Cats	Eastern League	68-73	4th Northern Div.	Toronto	
2007	Syracuse Chiefs	International League	64-80	5th IL North	Toronto	
2008	Syracuse Chiefs	International League	69-73	4th IL North	Toronto	
MiLB CAREER (8 Years)		515-484 (.515)				



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## **DUSTIN GLANT- PITCHING COACH**

Born: July 20, 1981 Resides: Tampa, FL

Glant enters his second year within the Yankees system, having been tabbed as the Pitching Coach for Staten Island last year prior to the season's cancelation. He was originally selected by Arizona in the seventh round of the 2003 First-Year Player Draft and pitched in 264 games over six seasons in the Diamondbacks organization, reaching Triple-A in his final two campaigns.





## CASEY DYKES- HITTING COACH

Born: January 27, 1990 Resides: Wesley Chapel, FL

Dykes joined the Yankees organization last year after spending 2019 with Indiana University as their hitting coach. Prior to his time with Indiana, Dykes was the hitting coach and recruiting coordinator at Virginia Military Institute (2015-18) and spent two seasons as an assistant at his alma mater, Western Kentucky University (2013-14).

## **RAUL DOMINIGUEZ- COACH**

Born: July 25, 1980

Resides: Panama City, Panama

Dominguez begins his first season with Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and his 14th in the Yankees organization in 2020. He spent the last two seasons as the defensive coach for Double-A Trenton, and served in the same role for A-Advanced Tampa in 2017. Dominguez was signed by the Yankees as a non-drafted free agent in 2001.





## CAONABO COSME- COACH

Born: March 18, 1979 Resides: La Vega, Dominican

Cosme enters his 10th season in the Yankees organization and his first with the RailRiders. He was scheduled to serve as a defensive coach for the Yankees' former Double-A Trenton affiliate before the 2020 season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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## 1- ANDREW VELAZQUEZ INF

Height: 5-8 Weight: 170 Bats: Switch Throws: Right

Born: July 14, 1994 in Bronx, NY

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 23, 2020

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG HR RBI BB SO SB CS G AB R H **3B** OBP  $\mathbf{E}$ .159 63 11 10 3 10 23 4 2 .274 0



## 2- BRADEN BRISTO RHP

Height: 6-0 Weight: 180 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Born: November 1, 1994 in West Monroe, LA

Acquired: Selected in the 23<sup>rd</sup> round of the 2016 Draft from Louisiana Tech University

#### 2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV IP H R ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG

Did Not Play



## 3- ARMANDO ALVAREZ INF

Height: 6-1 Weight: 205 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Born: July 14, 1994 in Miami, FL

Acquired: Selected in the 17th round of the 2016 Draft from Eastern Kentucky University

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP E

Did Not Play



## 4- ROB BRANTLY C

Height: 6-0 Weight: 191 Bats: Left Throws: Right

Born: July 14, 1989 in San Diego, CA

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 20, 2020

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G R 2BHR RBI BB SO SB CS AB H OBP E .000 .000 3 0 0 0



## 5- TREY AMBURGEY OF

Height: 6-2 Weight: 210 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Born: October 10, 1994 in Lake Worth, FL

Acquired: Selected in the 13th round of the 2015 Draft from St. Petersburg College (FL)

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP E

Did Not Play





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## 6- DEIVI GARCÍA

Height: 5-9 Weight: 163 **Bats: Right** Throws: Right

Born: May 19, 1999 in Bonao, Dominican Republic

Acquired: Signed as a Non-Drafted Free Agent on July 2, 2015

#### 2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV ΙP H R ER HR SO WP OPPAVG BB 3-2 4.98 6 0 34.1 35 20 19 6 6 33 .254



## 7-SOCRATES BRI

Weight: 205 Height: 6-2 **Bats: Left** Throws: Left

Born: September 6, 1992 in Azua, Dominican Republic Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 31, 2020

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP Did Not Play



## 9- GREG ALLEN

Height: 6-0 Weight: 185 Born: March 15, 1993 in San Diego, CA

Acquired: Trade with the San Diego Padres on January 6, 2021

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G 2B 3B SB **OBP** E .154 16 26 10 2 .281 0



## **10-TREVOR LANE**

Throws: Left Height: 5-11 Weight: 185 **Bats: Left** Born: April 26, 1994 in Redmond, VA

Acquired: Selected in the 10th round of the 2016 Draft from University of Illinois at Chicago

W-L ERA G ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG GS SV IP H R Did Not Play



## 12- DEREK DIETRICH

Weight: 205 Height: 6-2 Throws: Right

Born: July 18, 1989 in Cleveland, OH

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on February 13, 2021

#### 2020

AVG G Н **RBI** BB SO AB R 2B **3B** HR SB **OBP** E .197 25 61 9 12 21 .347

## TRIPLE-A AFFILIATE OF THE NEW YORK YANKEES



## 16- BRANDON WAGNER INF

Height: 6-0 Weight: 210 Bats: Left Throws: Right

Born: August 24, 1995 in Princeton, NJ

Acquired: Selected in the 6th round of the 2015 Draft from Howard College (TX)

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP E

Did Not Play



## 17- NICK GOODY RHP

Height: 5-11 Weight: 200 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Born: July 6, 1991 in Orlando, FL Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on February 15, 2021

#### 2020 TOTALS

IP Н R ER HR BB WP OPPAVG W-L ERA G GS SV SO 0 - 29.00 17 11.0 14 12 11 3 8 13 1 .304



## 18- MAX MCDOWELL C

Height: 6-1 Weight: 208 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Born: January 12, 1994 in Pittsburgh, PA

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on June 28, 2020

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP E

Did Not Play



## 20- KELLIN DEGLAN C

Height: 6-2 Weight: 205 Bats: Left Throws: Right

Born: May 3, 1992 in Langley, British Columbia, Canada

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 12, 2016

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP E

Did Not Play



## 21- RYAN LAMARRE OF

Height: 6-1 Weight: 215 Bats: Right Throws: Left

Born: November 21, 1988 in Royal Oak, MI

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 12, 2020

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP E



## 22- ADAM WARREN

Height: 6-1 Weight: 225 **Bats: Right** Throws: Right

Born: August 25, 1987 in Birmingham, AL

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 18, 2019

#### 2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV ΙP H ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG **Did Not Play** 



## 24- LUIS GIL

Weight: 185 **Bats: Right Throws: Right** Height: 6-2

Born: June 3, 1998 in Azua, Dominican Republic

Acquired: Trade with the Minnesota Twins on March 16, 2018

#### 2020 TOTALS

ΙP W-L ERA G GS SV H ER HR BB SO Did Not Play



## 25- BRIAN KELLER

Weight: 190 Height: 6-3 **Bats: Right** Throws: Right

Born: June 21, 1994 in Milwaukee, WI

Acquired: Selected in the 39th round of the 2016 Draft from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

W-L ERA G H ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG Did Not Play



## 26- NICK NELSON

Height: 6-1 Weight: 205 **Bats: Right** Throws: Right Born: December 5, 1995 in Panama City, FL

Acquired: Selected in the 4th round of the 2016 Draft from Gulf Coast C.C. (FL)

#### 2020 TOTALS

IP R W-L ERA G GS SV Н ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG 0 - 05.06 3 1 0 5.1 6 5 3 3 0 .286



## 29- BROOKS KRISKE

Height: 6-3 Weight: 190 **Bats: Right** Throws: Right

Born: February 3, 1994 in Scottsdale, AZ

Acquired: Selected in the 6th round of the 2016 Draft from USC

W-L ERA G GS IP Н R ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG 0 - 014.73 3.2 3 6 8 2 .200



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## ATTIVLE OE LHE NEW



Weight: 220 Bats: Right Height: 6-1

Born: June 5, 1984 in Punto Fijo, Venezuela

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on February 13, 2021

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G R H 2B3B RBI CS OBP AB BB SO SB  $\mathbf{E}$ .162 26 74 12 3 7 21 .232 0



## 31- ESTEVAN FLORIA

Height: 6-1 Weight: 195 **Throws: Right** Born: November 25, 1997 in Barahona, Dominican Republic

Acquired: Signed as a Non-Drafted Free Agent on March 19, 2015

#### **2020 TOTALS**

AVG G AB R Н 2B **3B** HR RBI BB SO SB .333 3 0 0 0 2 0 0 .333



## 35- LUIS GARCÍA

Height: 6-2 Weight: 240 **Bats: Right** Throws: Right Born: January 30, 1987 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 18, 2020

#### 2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV IP H ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG 0-27.56 8.1 10 9 9 11 2 .278



## **36- ALBERT ABREU**

Height: 6-2 Weight: 190 **Bats: Right** Throws: Right Born: September 26, 1995, in Guayubin, Dominican Republic Acquired: Trade with the Houston Astros on November 17, 2016

W-L ERA G GS SV ΙP R ER HR BB SO WP OPP AVG 0 - 120.25 2 4 0 0 1.1 3 1 2 2 .500



## 37- MATT KROOK

Height: 6-4 Weight: 225 **Bats: Left** Throws: Left

Born: October 21, 1994 in Hillsborough, CA

Acquired: Selected in the Triple-A Phase of the 2020 Rule 5 Draft

W-L ERA G GS SV IP H R ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG Did Not Play



## 38- GREG WEISSERT RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 215 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Born: February 5, 1995 in Bay Shore, NY

Acquired: Selected in the 18th round of the 2016 Draft from Fordham University

#### 2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV IP H R ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG

Did Not Play



## 39- REGGIE MCCLAIN RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 180 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Born: November 16, 1992 in Duluth, GA Acquired: Selected in the Triple-A Phase of the 2020 Rule 5 Draft

#### 2020 TOTALS

R WP OPPAVG W-L ERA G GS SV IP Н ER HR BB SO 0-0 5.06 5 0 0 5.1 9 6 3 3 2 0 .360



## 41- HOY PARK INF

Height: 6-1 Weight: 175 Bats: Left Throws: Right

Born: April 7, 1996 in Seoul, South Korea Acquired: Signed as a Non-Drafted Free Agent on July 2, 2014

#### 2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP E

Did Not Play



## 50-SAL ROMANO RHP

Height: 6-5 Weight: 255 Bats: Left Throws: Right

Born: October 12, 1992 in Syosset, NY

Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on May 19, 2021

#### 2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV IP Н R ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG 2-0 0.00 2 0 0 1.1 0 0 0 .000



## 54- BRODY KOERNER RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 220 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Born: October 18, 1993 in Winchester, VA

Acquired: Selected in the 17th round of the 2015 Draft from Clemson University

#### 2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV IP H R ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG

Did Not Play



# Everyone's going back, back, back to campus Fall 2021



# HERE COMES HOY: PARK IMPRESSES IN RISE THROUGH THE RANKS

RailRiders infielder Hoy Park joined the team in mid-May and has quickly become a prescence on the field. He is also making his mark with the fans.





Hoy Park was stepping into the batter's box at PNC Field when he spotted a small South Korean flag appear in the left-field bleachers. The young Korean family of four eagerly waving the flag of their shared home country piqued his interest as the atbat began. The broadcast cameras, now focused on Park, captured a smile that had broken out on his face. Chances are, the family was wearing a smile alongside him

With that smile, Park bears a lot of love and pride. It's the love of his parents and their

support throughout his upbringing and in his move from South Korea to the United States. It's the pride of the South Korean community in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area that chants and waves the flag whenever he strides to the plate. There's also the pride of an entire nation across the Pacific watching Park and the other South Korean ballplayers making their mark on professional baseball in America.

The list of these players begins with Chan-Ho Park, still a legend to fans and young players in Korea. Among many others, there was Byung-Hyum Kim, Hee-Seop Choi and most recently players such as Shin-Soo Choo and Ji-Man Choi, a former RailRider. Park said that he received a lot of advice from Chan-ho Park and Shin-Soo Choo, both telling him to do what felt best in his heart. Choo, in particular, guided Park and gave him a magnitude of advice.

"Personally, I respect Shin-Soo Choo. I have respect for the way he has climbed up the levels in the minor leagues and how actively he plays in the major leagues," Park said. "Choo told me about life, exercise and taught me how to survive in the minors."

Due to the strength and organization of the amateur baseball scene in Korea, there is less of an incentive for young players to sign with Major League Baseball teams than for players in Latin American countries. Many young Korean prospects enjoy playing alongside their friends and childhood idols in the Korea Baseball Organization. But Park, like Choi and others before him, chose to forego the KBO pipeline to pursue a dream to play in MLB.

Growing up in Korea, Park was influenced greatly by the presence of baseball and the passionate sports scene.



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"My family loves any type of sports," Park said. "I played almost every sport available like soccer, volleyball, basketball and golf. My favorite sport was baseball and I played it almost every day. Baseball is definitely the most popular sport in Korea."

However, his only knowledge of the sport in America came from watching Los Angeles Dodgers games on television. The Dodgers are a favorite team in Korea, Park says, because Chan-Ho Park and other Korean natives made the transition to California.

Garnering attention since his sophomore year of high school when he slashed .371/.475/.557 with one home run, many Korean scouts predicted Park to be the possible No.1 overall pick of the 2015 KBO draft. He also began to spark the interest of MLB scouts.

"I was approached by the Yankees during my sophomore year of high school," Park said. "My parents liked the idea of going to MLB, but I wasn't sure what to expect so I declined their offer at the time."



His junior year for Yatap High School of the Gyeonggi province saw him post a .467/.614/.967 line over 44 plate appearances in 10 games, drawing even more attention to the rising prospect. Park looked forward to being selected in the KBO Draft, but quickly looked overseas as a different opportunity arose.

Park's interests changed when he and his teammates from Yatap High School spent more than a month in the United States playing against top high school teams from California.

"I played against American players a few times then and I felt they had better power and basics," said Park. "Despite all that, I felt that I played very well against them, so I started to feel confident about playing in America in the future."

The New York Yankees, still interested in the middle infielder, were not the only team that had their sights set on Park. The San Diego Padres made a \$1 million offer and five other MLB teams showed a deep interest. Still, the Yankees were Park's priority and they officially signed him at the age of 18 as an international free agent in July 2014, offering him a signing bonus of \$1.1 million.

Park was elated, and his parents also gained confidence at this moment. His father, Donghoon Park, said in an interview with South Korean newspaper SportsQ, "If Hoy makes a final decision, I will respect it and help him advance into the United States."

With this contract offer, the Yankees gave Park an opportunity of a lifetime.

"Everyone knows about the New York Yankees," Park said. "Even though I didn't know much about Major League Baseball, I knew about the Yankees and I knew I had to sign with them for this opportunity."

Despite being away from their home countries, young Latin American players usually have other Spanish speakers their age to bond with during their time the Minors. That's not the case with Korean prospects like Park, making for a tougher transition to a new country and career. Park used a translator during his first two seasons of professional baseball, but since the start of the 2017 season, he has made a concerted effort not to rely on one during his time in the farm system. Instead, he leans on the aid of teammates to grasp the nuances of a language he studied during school in Korea.

"The first couple years, I was kind of struggling with the English. Now I speak kind of broken English, but I can talk," said Park. "My teammates are my English teachers, so whatever I say in English, they'll fix some words. But they're still teaching me and I'm still learning."

On the field, Park also felt some details of baseball differed from Korea to America, but the learning curves have not prevented him from a successful career in the Yankees organization.

"When I first came here from Korea, I felt the game was very different," Park said. "Especially with the pitchers, they threw harder and had nastier stuff. I remember thinking I wasn't going to get used to it. In Korea, they average 88-90 mph, but here everyone throws over 95 mph. I knew I had to work harder to adjust."

Park made his professional debut the following year in 2015 at the age of 19 with New York's rookie level Appalachian League team, the Pulaski Yankees. He hit .239 with five home runs and 30 RBI in 56 games with the team. In the

field, he presented great quickness, smooth defense and a strong arm to make plays across the diamond.

In his second year, Park was moved up to the Yankees' Class-A South Atlantic League affiliate, the Charleston RiverDogs. It was there that Park settled into the American style of baseball and quickly became a favorite amongst his teammates in the clubhouse.

"He is an incredible person," then-teammate Blake Rutherford told MLB.com. "I love Hoy and I think everyone here loves him too. He brings a lot of energy, is respectful and plays the game hard. He is showing why he is one of the best prospects in the Yankees organization with the way he can do all things on the field."



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A .262/.358/.367 triple-slash over 86 games in 2017 earned Park an August promotion to Tampa in 2018 and he then quickly advanced to Trenton, the Double-A affiliate of the Yankees in 2019. There, Park turned heads when he caught the Bowie BaySox off guard and stole home during Trenton's run to the 2019 Eastern League championship.

As there was no Minor League Baseball season in 2020, Park appeared in exhibitions at the Yankees' alternate site in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. He continued his trek in Double-A at the beginning of the 2021 season, now as a member of the Somerset Patriots after affiliate realignment, and was promoted to the RailRiders on May 18

Park has impressed with an offensive power surge during his 16 games for the RailRiders, hitting for a .382

average and a 1.178 OPS. He blasted five home runs during the most recent 10-game homestand, already nearing his season-high seven long balls in 2017. His glove has also impressed, with multiple defensive web gems up the middle.

"Hoy has been a really pleasant surprise for us," RailRiders Manager Doug Davis said. "I did have him at the alternate site, but he didn't have a chance to play a lot so he started in Somerset this season. He was there for a week or 10 days, then came here and just went off. He's had a very successful run so far and it is not in just one way. He has played great defensively, hit offensively and has hit balls over the fence. I think that would be the biggest surprise for me, but overall it is just fun to be around him."

Perhaps even more than the impact of his play on the field, Park's greatest asset may be the joy he brings to fans and the pride of those from his home country.

A week after the South Korean flag first appeared in the stands, it appeared again and Park went over to meet the family. They shared with each other their history in Korea and how their passion for baseball has also crossed international borders.

"I was shocked when I saw the Korean fans at the stadium," Park said. "I thought it was so awesome to have that support."

Park's trek to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre has been a long and winding journey, making it all the more impressive that, considering the challenges in his minor league career transitioning to a new country and having been an ocean away from home since his teenage years, Park still wears that big smile on his face and coaxes it out of others, too.

Those smiles aren't going anywhere -- certainly not now.

**Photo Credits: Tim Dougherty** 





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## **CHASING THE DREAM: MILONE CHERISHES CHANCE WITH YANK**

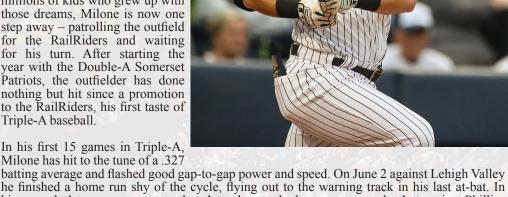
Outfielder Thomas Milone signed with the New York Yankees in 2020 and is now a call away from joining the club he grew up watching.

**By Joe Vasile** 

Thomas Milone is not unlike many baseball-crazed kids who grew up in Connecticut at the turn of the 21st century. Every night when he wasn't playing a game, he'd tune into the YES Network and watch the powerful New York Yankees dynasty chase another World Series championship. He dreamt of one day donning the pinstripes and trotting out to the field where Jeter, Ruth, Gehrig, Mantle and Di Maggio had all played.

The difference is that among the millions of kids who grew up with for his turn. After starting the Patriots, the outfielder has done nothing but hit since a promotion to the RailRiders, his first taste of Triple-A baseball.

In his first 15 games in Triple-A, Milone has hit to the tune of a .327



batting average and flashed good gap-to-gap power and speed. On June 2 against Lehigh Valley he finished a home run shy of the cycle, flying out to the warning track in his last at-bat. In his second plate appearance two days later, he got the home run – a solo shot against Phillies prospect Bailey Falter.

At a time where mountains of data are collected on each and every pitch of a baseball game, Milone's success has come from keeping things simple.

"I just try and just give it my all, every chance I get every time I hit the feel I try and just do the best I can to help the team win really," Milone says. "So I'm just playing as hard as I can I try and keep it as simple as possible. Thinking wise, I try not to think too much into it."

Without a doubt, that approach has helped Milone get off to his hot start after a year away from baseball during the 2020 pandemic. While some players, especially those who did not play at the Alternate Training Site in 2020 have needed time to adjust back to game speed, Milone has not, and that has helped him make his mark in his first year in the Yankees organization.

"I think almost every year you worry going in a little bit here and there, just how long it's gonna take you to get your timing, but you just got to trust that you're work in the off-season is gonna, just show out," Milone said. "So it took a little bit just to get used to live pitching again, because obviously a weird year, we haven't seen it in a while. So that took a little bit but trust your work. And just that worked out."

Milone's professional baseball journey began in 2013, when the Tampa Bay Rays selected him in the third round of the draft out of Masuk High School. He spent the next seven seasons in the Rays organization, producing mixed results on his way up the ladder.

After spending the entire 2018 season with the Double-A Montgomery (AL) Biscuits, Milone found himself back with the A-Adv. Charlotte Stone Crabs for 55 games in 2019. He turned in the best season of his career when healthy, hitting .281 in 83 contests with Charlotte and Montgomery, but the Rays allowed him to walk as a free agent at the end of the year.

Milone signed with the Yankees for 2020, who saw in him the potential to produce the way he has early in the 2021 season. But to do so, Yankees player development wanted to make a tweak in his game, and that has unlocked a new level.

"Thomas is a strong, you know, physical player, and has the ability to hit the ball hard and has the ability to run to and a lot of his career is has been based on that," said RailRiders hitting coach Casey Dykes. "He [hit] a lot of balls on the ground and ran and been that type of player and a lot of his success this year has just been himself believing the same thing that, you know, he's strong enough to drive the ball in the gap and to get the ball in the air and have success."

When the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the minor league season, he occupied his time back home in Connecticut by spending time with family and having his dad throw batting practice to him.

"It was weird. I haven't been home in a long time in the summertime," he said. "But we got through it. I got to be outside a little bit, tried to find some people to be hit with, I had my dad throwing me a lot. So that was that was kind of fun being back doing that."

His bond with his father over baseball and the Yankees is special. Growing up, Milone gained an appreciation for the history of the Yankees through his father, as the pair would watch the "Yankeeography" program on the YES Network every day before nap time and learn about the greats of the past.

"Even throughout pro ball, I mean, he's just always been there just whether it was some advice or whether it was you know, just have someone to listen to because he understands what I'm going through," Milone says of his father. "So I mean, he's been amazing, honestly, he helps me in every way he can, throws to me and everything."

Confidence and a new approach have helped Milone rise to being one phone call away from realizing his childhood dream.

"With the way he's been able to make contact at the rate he has this year, which has been so impressive, there's no reason that he can't keep going in the direction he's been going," said Dykes. "He's a worker. It's not surprising to me that the results have come from that."

Despite being right on the doorstep of realizing his dream, Milone hasn't lost sight of what is important to him: "It's very exciting. I mean, for a lot of people back home it's very exciting. But I just try and wherever I go, I try and just be an asset to the team, play the best I can, and just give it 100%. so I just take that attitude to it."



**PRESENTS** 

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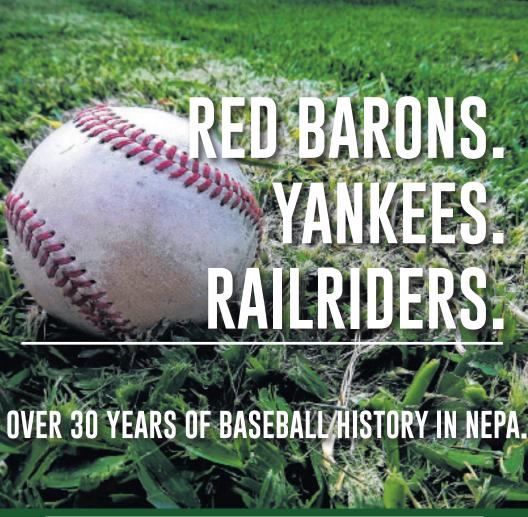
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# BULLISH: BULLPEN BECOMES TEAM STRENGTH IN 2021

Expanded roster has added talented arms to the arsenal that Scranton/Wilkes-Barre has to offer this season.

by Adam Marco



Adam Warren is one of the veteran arms helping pace a dominant bullpen. (Photo Credit: Tim Dougherty)

The RailRiders bullpen has been a key reason why Scranton/Wilkes-Barre has maintained first place in Triple-A East Northeast this season. The New York Yankees have assigned a talented array of pitchers to the RailRiders this season, combining seasoned veterans with young arms on the rise

"The first few years I was here in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, I think our starting rotation, every year, was just tremendous," stated Manager Doug Davis. "Just arm-after-arm. Guys throwing hard. The bullpen, though, wasn't always that way. Now this year, I think the focus has been on the bullpen."

To date, RailRiders starting pitchers are a combined 3-8 with a 5.30 Earned Run Average over 124 innings pitched. The bullpen has compiled a 20-3 mark with 14 saves and a 2.15 ERA over 168.1 innings. The RailRiders bullpen

has reeled off multiple stretches this season with minmal runs allowed over lengthy numbers of innings, like surrendering just three runs over 26.2 innings during the opening homestand of the season against Lehigh Valley.

"The starting rotation has been a little inconsistent, especially with guys moving around a little bit and plugging guys in that weren't scheduled to be here. The bullpen has definitely taken off and has been tremendous."

Nearly every member of the RailRiders bullpen this season has Major League experience under their belt, though some certainly have more service time than others. Kyle Barraclough, Nick Goody, Luis Garcia Reggie McClain, Sal Romano and Adam Warren each have multiple years of big-league experience, while Albert Abreu, Nick Nelson and Brooks Kriske all have played for the Yankees though have not yet hit one full year. Regardless of experience though, they all help each other and the veterans have no issues mentoring the younger players.

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"I tease Luis Garcia that he is my Assistant Pitching Coach," said Dustin Glant, the RailRiders Pitching Coach. "He is always willing to help and he really thrives in that leadership role down there with those guys in the bullpen. He is one of those guys that everyone feels that they can go to with questions or pick his brain. We are probably just so spoiled with the presence of veterans around that a lot of teams may not have. We have a group of guys with a ton of experience in the game and they are willing to share what they have learned."

Regardless of the game situation, the RailRiders bullpen allows for confidence that no game is out of reach.

"You really feel good when you get the ball to the bullpen, knowing that those guys are going to keep you in the game or win you game," Glant said. "They are feeding off each other's performances. It is almost an expectation that they have set for themselves. Everyone is throwing up zeros, so they kind of compete against each other and they are wanting to do their part when they get out there."

Davis echoed that sentiment.

"They all jump into the different roles on different nights and they have really dominated," the RailRiders manager said. "That is really nice to have when we have a lead, so going into the middle of the game, you feel pretty confident in your ability to hold that lead. If we give up runs early, the way the offense has been, you kind of expect that we are going to claw back into the game, and you know that the guys coming out of the bullpen aren't going to give up any more runs that put us further behind."

A prime example of this confidence in action was on June 8 when the club was in Trenton to play Buffalo. The Bisons are forced to play their home games this season while the Toronto Blue Jays call Buffalo's Sahlen Field home due to the closure of the US-Canada border.

In the bottom of the first, the Bisons scored four runs against Zack Britton, who was with Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on a Major League rehab assignment. Buffalo added a home run in the third and led 5-0. The RailRiders rally started in the top of the fourth inning en route to a 7-5 victory.

"The offense we have really helps the mindset of the bullpen," Glant stated. "We never feel out of a game with the job that Casey [Dykes- the RailRiders Hitting Coach] does with these guys. Think back to our game on June 8. We give up four early runs and fall behind 5-0, but Derek [Dietrich] makes an unbelievable play at third and throws a guy out at home and then droves in two in a huge spot late against some of the best arms in the league. It was Hoy the day before. Guys on the offense keep stepping up and it's fun to know you are always in the game. It gives our guys in the bullpen confidence to know we are never out of anything and that gives them the chance to go dominate.

The RailRiders hold on first place is the residual effect of how the bullpen has impacted the game flow this season. It does not overshadow, however, what each player's goal is. Each player wants a shot on the New York Yankees roster.

"They are all trying to prepare to help the Yankees if they are needed," Davis stated. "They are all ready. If needed, I believe they can all help."



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#### RAILRIDERS RADIO NETWORK

The flagship of the RailRiders Radio Network is The Mothership; Bold Gold's oldies station that hit the airwaves in 2020 and added a frequency to expand the coverage. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre games can be heard locally on 1400 AM, 1440 AM, 93.5 FM, 106.7 FM and 107.9 FM. This array of frequencies for The Mothership gives the RailRiders coverage across both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, as well as into Wayne and Pike Counties in the Pocono Lake Region.

Bold Gold Media Group's family of stations has been the home of RailRiders radio broadcasts since 2007.

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders broadcasts

are also available online at swbrailriders.com and with the video feed on MiLB.tv when the team plays at PNC Field. In addition to the over-the-air broadcast, MiLB.tv and the webstream, broadcasts will be streamed through Bold Gold's state-of-the-art RadioBOLD Mobile App, available for free in the Apple and GooglePlay Marketplace and at RadioBOLD.com.

Adam Marco and Joe Vasile will serve as the broadcast voices of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders during the 2021 season.





# HITTING ON ALL CYLINDERS: OFFENSE SETS 2021 TONE

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre's balanced offensive attack has set the tone for a torrid start to the 2021 season.

By Joe Vasile

The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders took over first place in the Triple-A East Northeast Division after the fourth game of the season and have not vacated the top spot since.

Now just over a quarter of the way through the season, it is evident that a well-balanced offensive attack has been key to the team's success.

Bucking the recent trend of teams loading up on sluggers who mash home runs the RailRiders offense has found harmony in offering a lineup filled with hitters who take diverse approaches and pose different challenges for opposing pitchers. Not surprisingly, that strategy has worked for the RailRiders, who have scored the second-most runs per game in the Northeast Division (5.29 per game), and rank third in the league with a .351 team on-base percentage.

That's not to say this team can't hit home runs – they certainly can with 42 in 34 games entering this homestand – but they have the ability to manufacture runs on days when the ball isn't flying out of the park. The RailRiders lead the Northeast Division with 60 doubles and are among the toughest teams to strike out in the league.

Perhaps there has been no player on the RailRiders roster who has better embodied what the offense is all about than outfielder Socrates Brito. He frequently bats in the cleanup spot and leads the team with a .276 batting average. The veteran is second on the team in RBIs and third in home runs.

Despite that, Brito is not afraid to lay down a drag bunt to catch the defense napping and get himself on base. His bunts have keyed several rallies this season, and his leadership is something that has worn off on younger players on the roster.

"[He's] able to show the guys that, you can have fun, you can work, and you can do both," said RailRiders hitting coach Casey Dykes. "That's what ... Brito has been able to show them and it's been really neat for me to see and watch that manifest in our locker room and the cages."

One player who has spoken out about the impact of Brito and other veterans has been Hoy Park, an infielder who began the season with Double-A Somerset but has been among the RailRiders' best hitters since his promotion. The infielder has been a revelation for Scranton/Wilkes-Barre this season, batting .329 in 20 games.

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"A lot of guys like Derek Dietrich and Socrates Brito, a lot of pitchers and everyone is trying to help me out," said Park who is in Triple-A for the first time after he was signed as a 16-year-old in 2014.

"He's been extremely impressive," Dykes says of Park. "I've seen him show the ability to make adjustments quickly. You know, how these pitchers are attacking him within the game, within an at-bat, you know, from at-bat to at-bat. The work he's put in this offseason going into this year and throughout spring training throughout his time in the alternate site focusing on really impacting the ball and getting it in the air. Hoy has always done a great job of controlling the strike zone and making contact at a high rate and now he's really showing off his ability to drive the baseball, which we knew was in there. And he's really starting to believe that."

While Park has come on strong since his promotion, Andrew Velazquez has been a steady contributor to the lineup all season long, and leads the team with eight doubles. The switch hitter brings big league experience and a slick-fielding glove to the lineup and has come up with clutch hits throughout the season.

With over six years of time in the big leagues, Dietrich has led by example and his words in the clubhouse. He has also shown a keen eye at the plate, sporting one of the best walk rates in the Triple-A East League.

But perhaps there has been no hitter off to a better start this season than outfielder Trey Amburgey. He has a hit in each of the first 18 games he played this season, giving Amburgey the longest hitting streak in Triple-A East this season. Former RailRiders and Yankees catcher Erik Kratz has taken notice of Amburgey's performance and tweets about him on a daily basis.

"Trey is steady as they come, you know what you're going to get from Trey," Dykes says of Amburgey. "He believes in himself, he believes in his ability to play this game at the highest level ... I think that's, that's probably the most impressive thing about him. You know what he's going to bring every single day and his attention to detail, the way he knows himself, he knows the swing, and then he's able to really make adjustments because he just knows himself so well. Everybody needs to be able to replicate because that's what it's about at the highest level is that consistency to repeat. And then when you're just off being able to make that adjustment quickly, and not going to spiral. And Trey showed that ability over and over. He's been incredible, just to watch go out and perform."

These stellar individual performances have combined to form one of the top offenses in Triple-A baseball a quarter of the way through the season. Combined with the team's strong bullpen, the offense has carried the team to the top of the Northeast Division, and it shows no signs of slowing down.

## UPCOMING PROMOTIONS



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- 15 \$2 Tuesday- Get \$2 Landshark tallboys for two hours after gates open! @
- 16 Waggin' Wednesday- Bring your four-legged friends to the park \$1 Hot Dogs for two hours after gates open courtesy of Sabrett
- 17 Thirsty Thursday- Get \$1 Bud Light drafts & \$1 Pepsi products for two hours after gates open presented by & NEWS
- 18 Heroes & Villains Night; Post Game Fireworks! 🐲
- 19 6:05 P.M. First Pitch; Times Leader Media Group
  RailRiders Beer Growler Giveaway for the first 2,500 fans
- 20 1:05 P.M. First Pitch; Geisinger Sunday Family Fun Day @

#### July

- 6 \$2 Tuesday- Get \$2 Lawn Seats (online only) & \$2 Landshark Tallboys 🕬
- 7 Waggin' Wednesday & \$1 Dog Night 🥯
- B Thirsty Thursday Budweiser & NEWS
- 9 Post Game Fireworks! Presented by 📹 & 🎏
- 10 6:05 P.M. First Pitch; Umbrella Giveaway for the first 2,500 fans
- 11 1:05 P.M. First Pitch; Geisinger Sunday Family Fun Day 🕮















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