DRAGONS 2026 SEASON REVIEW: RUN TO MWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES AND MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE TITLE

Dayton, Ohio—The 2026 season was an incredible year for the Dayton Dragons, both on and off the field.

The season included the Dragons first-ever run to the Midwest League Championship Series, featuring the most exciting and dramatic playoff wins in franchise history. The Dragons also led all Minor League Baseball in average attendance per game.

Additionally, the Dragons and Day Air Credit Union announced a 10-year extension of their ballpark naming rights partnership through the 2040 season. The Dragons also welcomed the addition of the South Dayton Toyota Diamond Club to Day Air Ballpark and introduced Deck the Diamond as a hugely popular holiday attraction.



- When the final numbers were in, the Dragons **ranked number one in the nation in attendance**. The attendance per game average of 7,863 led all levels of Minor League Baseball (120 teams). (See more on this topic in the second section).

- The Dragons earned a First Half division title for the first time since 2007, locking them into the playoffs in September. Once the playoffs began, the Dragons advanced to the **Midwest League Championship Series** for the first time in franchise history by winning the semi-final round set over the Great Lakes Loons, two-games-to-one. The series with the Loons included two Dragons home wins, both played in front of a full house at Day Air Ballpark, games that featured highly-energized crowds that roared with every Dragons hit or key defensive play, creating a thrilling ballpark atmosphere that rivaled anything ever experienced in Minor League Baseball. (See more on this topic in the "On the Field" section of this Season Review)
- On June 9, the **Dragons and Day Air Credit Union announced an extension** of an additional 10 years to their original partnership extending stadium naming rights through 2040. The facility will continue to be named Day Air Ballpark. "Having the continuity of a naming rights partner for the team helps secure the future of our team," said Robert Murphy, Dragons President. "This means that everything the Dragons organization does to contribute to our community will continue. This includes our annual economic impact, our being a driver for economic development, our Dragons MVP school program, our support of nonprofit organizations, and our ability to drive people downtown to Dragons games and other events at Day Air Ballpark, all year long."
- The Dragons officially opened the **South Dayton Toyota Diamond Club**, the largest renovation project at the ballpark since the original opening in 2000. (See more below).
- The Dragons completed the inaugural year of **Deck the Diamond**, a new holiday event at Day Air Ballpark (see more below).
- The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles introduced a **new Dragons specialty license plate** featuring the Dragons logo. For every license plate sold, $25 will go towards the Dragons Foundation.
- The Dragons were selected as the First-Place winner in the *Dayton Daily News* "Best of Dayton" contest in two categories: "**Best Attraction**" and "**Best Family Fun Destination.**" The Dragons were also selected by *Dayton Magazine* in their annual survey as the "**Best Family Fun Entertainment**."
- Robert Murphy, President of the Dragons, was recognized by the **Dayton Business Journal's Power 100**, identifying the 100 people who helped create a new direction for the Dayton region and helped propel it into the burgeoning powerhouse of today.
- Dragons executives Eric Deutsch (Executive Vice President) and Brandy Guinaugh (Executive Vice President & Assistant General Manager) were recognized in the **Ohio 500**, a research initiative by the editors of Ohio Business Journal identifying the top 500 executives in Ohio.
- Dragons broadcaster Tom Nichols was inducted into the **Ohio Sports Hall-of-Fame** as a media contributor.

Major New Additions at Day Air Ballpark

Deck the Diamond

The Dragons announced the return of our holiday light show, Deck the Diamond, for the 2026-27 holiday season. Guests will once again step into a winter wonderland at Day Air Ballpark. Guests will experience the enchantment of over 1.5 million dazzling lights and enjoy a festive lineup of holiday activities perfect for the whole family. Guests will be able to roast s'mores at fire pits located around the ballpark and enjoy special holiday food creations and winter cocktails. Children will have the opportunity to meet and have their photo taken with Santa. In addition, kids can write letters to Santa, participate in a scavenger hunt, color festive coloring pages, and create their own ornament. Families can also ride the North Pole Express or the new Polar Barrel Express and enjoy plenty of "Elfie Stations" located around the ballpark including a 44-foot-tall Christmas tree.

South Dayton Toyota Diamond Club

The Dragons opened a dazzling new event center at Day Air Ballpark prior to the 2026 season. This 5,000-square-foot space comfortably hosts 75 to 225 seated guests, with additional capacity available for larger, flow-style gatherings. With floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the field, the South Dayton Toyota Diamond Club makes a perfect location for weddings, corporate events, holiday parties, or private celebrations. It is open 365 days a year and is a huge addition to the Water Street District and the entire Dayton downtown region.



Craftsmen Home Improvements Suite Level

The Dragons announced a new naming rights partnership with Craftsmen Home Improvements for the suite level at Day Air Ballpark. The long-term agreement is with Kettering-based Craftsmen Home Improvements, a remodeling company specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, and basements throughout the Dayton and Greater Cincinnati areas. The Craftsmen Home Improvements Suite Level includes 25 luxury suites, the ballpark's entertainment control center, television and radio broadcast booths, press box area, and more. The partnership features a plan to renovate the Dragons luxury suites after each of the next two seasons. Each renovated suite will provide guests with an up-close view of top-of-the-line, premium work from Craftsmen Home Improvements. The Craftsmen Home Improvements Suite Level at Day Air Ballpark serves as a key business networking space within the community. Over 70 of the top 100 companies in the region book suites on the Craftsmen Home Improvements Suite Level, and 66 of the top 100 employers host outings there. Nearly every chamber of commerce in the region utilizes the space for events and networking opportunities.

2026 Season Review

Attendance
Final Attendance: 511,123 (65 dates)
Per Game Attendance Average: 7,863 (1st in Minor League Baseball)

The Dayton Dragons finished the 2026 season ranked as the #1 team in the country in attendance average per home date among the 120 teams across all levels of Minor League Baseball™ (MiLB™). This was the fifth straight year that the Dragons have finished among the top three across all the entire minor leagues.

The Dragons full-season attendance total ranked fourth among all Minor League teams (note that High-A teams have fewer home dates than Triple-A and Double-A teams; Triple-A teams have 75 scheduled home dates; Double-A teams have 69, and High-A/Single-A teams have 66). The Dragons finished first among the 60 Class-A teams in professional baseball for the 26th consecutive season (every year of the Dragons existence). The Dragons finished #1 among all teams below the Triple-A level (Single-A and Double-A) for the 20th straight season. There are 90 teams below the Triple-A level in professional baseball.

The Dragons continued their successful Season Ticket campaign in 2026. Benefits to club members include a gift card that can be used toward food and team merchandise; free gifts available exclusively for season ticket holders, and two free events (Meet the Team; Classic Family Movie Night). As in past years, season ticket benefits included a free ticket exchange program for any missed games; 20% monthly discounts in the team store; best pricing on rental suites, party decks, or any other group outings; a personal ticket rep to provide assistance all season; opportunity to purchase parking passes; and first access to playoff tickets and other special events at the ballpark.

Dragons Community Support and Involvement in 2026

MILITARY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Hometown Heroes program presented by the Dayton Development Coalition, Reynolds & Reynolds, HII Mission Technologies, Synergy Building Systems, and Horenstein, Nicholson & Blumenthal
During the 2026 baseball season, the Dragons partnered with the Dayton Development Coalition, Reynolds & Reynolds, HII Mission Technologies, Synergy Building Systems, and HNB for a season-long tribute to all service men and women past and present. There were four special spotlights (April 23, May 14, June 11, July 4) that each highlighted a different aspect or organization involved in the military. The season-long celebration wrapped up with American Celebration Night on August 22.

Veteran Salute program presented by CareSource Military & Veterans
The Dragons Veteran Salute program, presented by CareSource Military & Veterans, highlighted five veterans' stories during the season. Veterans who were chosen were honored at a Dragons game with an in-game ceremony and provided with VIP treatment during their special night. This season, the Dragons recognized John Webb (Army) on April 26, Nikki Gordon (Air Force) on May 31, John Sostrom (Navy) on June 28, Bill Greenaway (Marine Corps) on July 26, and Bill Millar (Air Force) on August 23.

The Dragons understand the dedication it takes to serve in our nation's military and are proud to create special moments for those who give their oath to enlist and serve. During the 2026 season, the Dragons hosted **Oath of Enlistments** for the Air National Guard, Air Force, Space Force, Army, and Navy. Each future service member was able to attend the Dragons game and celebrate afterwards with complimentary tickets for them and their families.

The Dragons are proud to host multiple **Honor Guards** across the course of the season. These Honor Guards have featured multiple high school and colleges JROTC and ROTC programs, police and fire departments, and military organizations.



The Dragons honored local Miami Valley **police and firefighters** with special recognition nights, presented by LION.

The Dragons honored local Miami Valley police on June 25 with $7.00 from each ticket sold for this was donated to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund as part of the Dragons Ticket Fundraising Program. Dayton police officer Devin Portis sang the national anthem. The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by Dayton Police Department's Steve Whalen award recipient, Officer David Sosa. A pre-game recognition honored and thanked some of the newest law enforcement officers from Dayton's police department representing all new officers that have made the commitment and taken the oath to protect our communities within the last year. An in-game recognition honored a Miami Valley law enforcement member that went above and beyond to protect and serve our community. Lieutenant Chris Yingst from the Piqua Police Department was selected for the First Responder of the Game honor as he saved a child's life in 2025.

The Dragons honored Dayton firefighters on August 6 with $7.00 from each ticket sold for this was donated to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The national anthem was performed by Dayton Firefighter Price Dunlap. Ceremonial first pitches were thrown by Dayton Fire Department Deputy Chief Brad French, and the son of Dayton Firefighter Thomas Ritchie. A pre-game recognition honored participants in the Fire Explorer program. This program is a hands-on program open to young men and women from age 14 to 20 years old with an interest in learning more about a career in the field of fire and emergency services. An in-game recognition took place to honor a Miami Valley firefighter that went above and beyond to protect and serve our community. The First Responder of the Game honoree was Firefighter Noah Van Doesburg, who saved a child's life.

EDUCATION

Dragons MVP school program included over 1,200 fourth and fifth grade classrooms across the Miami Valley. The program completed its 21st year, impacting over 32,000 students in 2026. Teachers selected five MVPs based on the criteria put in place by the teacher including performance, effort, citizenship, and improvement. The five MVPs received four tickets to a Dragons game, access to an exclusive Dragons MVP Zone, an MVP certificate, and a Dragons MVP hat. The Dragons visited selected classrooms over the course of the program. The Dragons MVP Program was made possible by the generous support of Ohio 529 CollegeAdvantage, Roosters, 2 News, WDTN, Dayton's CW, and WDTN+. In 21 seasons, the Dragons MVP program has reached 594,460 students, 21,926 total classrooms, 109,630 total MVPs awarded, and 526,392 Dragons tickets awarded.

The **Dragons High School Baseball Showcase**, presented by Bob Ross Auto Group, welcomed 42 local high school teams to play a regular-season game at Day Air Ballpark. The Showcase served as a fundraiser for participating schools, allowing them to sell Dragons tickets and raise money for their athletics departments. The Dragons host these high school baseball games, providing the ultimate experience for the players involved. The teams were able to provide their own PA announcers, cheer squads, national anthem singers, and some schools even brought their own radio broadcasters to the ballpark.

College Prep Night, presented by Day Air Credit Union on September 9, helped prospective college students find the right college fit. Attendees could visit over 100 colleges and universities and had the chance to win one of two, $1,000 scholarships from Day Air Credit Union.

The **Dragons Field Trip** program provided an educational experience for local schools and daycares. Students involved received a behind-the-scenes tour of Day Air Ballpark, photo on the field, and had the opportunity to run the bases. A total of 78 groups including more than 3,000 students visited the ballpark in 2026 on field trips.

RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND DRAGONS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community All-Stars presented by Flying Ace Express Car Wash
The Dragons partnered with Flying Ace Express Car Wash on the Community All-Stars program, honoring Dayton's best individuals and organizations that are improving the quality of life in the Miami Valley. From firefighters to first responders to volunteers and good Samaritans, the Dragons honored five honorees that were highlighted during a game with a tribute video telling their story. Community All-Stars honored in 2025 included:

- Agape for Youth: May 13
- Montgomery County Animal Resource Center: June 9
- The Noble Circle Project: July 3
- Journey League Dayton: August 4
- Team Tressel Fitness Challenge: September 1

As part of the Dragons **Home Run Challenge**, presented by Kroger, $16,500 was donated to the Dayton Foodbank in accordance with the total number of home runs hit by the Dragons at Day Air Ballpark.

The **Dragons 50/50 program** is now in its ninth year and has raised more than $700,000 for various charities at Dragons games. Fans could purchase tickets from sellers at the ballpark, or online at daytondragons.com throughout the season. Winners of the 50/50 program received half of the total pot and the other half was donated to The Dayton Dragons Foundation which supported various charitable organizations and community programming in the Miami Valley.

Each year, the **Dragons ticket fundraising** program works with countless organizations to help them fundraise for their cause with the sale of Dragons tickets. Groups can sell tickets to a specific Dragons game and earn 50% of the proceeds from their ticket sales. In 2026, this program raised more than $150,000.

Dragons **concessions fundraiser** program benefited various organizations throughout the Miami Valley. Over $7.8 million has been raised for groups who participated in this program including nearly $300,000 this year.

The **Dragons** raised $10,868 as part of a 2025-26 holiday 50/50 raffle for the Dragons Foundation.

The **Dayton Dragons Foundation** is central to our organization's effort to be involved in the community. The Foundation provides necessary funding and resources to support the countless donations, charitable requests, in-kind donations, unique game experiences, and community-wide programs which the Dragon support every year. The Dragons strive to do more and make a larger impact through our position as Dayton's hometown team. Over the last year, we were able to provide monetary gifts totaling more than $38,000 to local non-profit and charity organizations.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES

Home Run for Life presented by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the Dragons teamed up to provide kids battling serious medical conditions with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities during Dragons games. Each honoree took an honorary home run lap around the bases during a Dragons game and received an engraved bat, along with other gifts. Dates for the 2026 season were May 27, June 24, July 22, and August 5.

The Dragons hosted their 16th annual **Dragons 5K presented by Orthopedic Associates** on July 18 at Day Air Ballpark. The event is one of the Miami Valley's biggest races and included over 3,200 participants. The race course follows streets and paths around the ballpark in the heart of the Water Street and through Deeds MetroPark.

Local Talent Performing at Day Air Ballpark

The **Dragons Present** program, in partnership with Winsupply, focused on the talented individuals and groups in the Miami Valley. “Dragons Present” featured 29 groups and organizations that had the opportunity to display their talents before a Dragons game in a spotlighted area. They included:

- Greenville Middle School Band
- UD Dance Team
- National Trail Steel Drum Band
- Fairborn High School Jazz Improv Band
- Beavercreek High School Drumline
- UD Irish Dance
- Kettering Jazz Youth Combo
- Madison High School Steel Band
- Showboat Cloggers
- Kettering Fairmont High School Marching Band
- Olohana's Polynesian Dance
- Young at Heart Line Dancers
- Steel Drum Dave
- Bethel High School Jazz Band
- The Brockman Brothers
- Gem City Cloggers
- Miami Valley Dance Center
- Dayton Vintage Dance
- Dayton Ballroom Dance Club
- Centerville High School Band
- Yellow Springs Ukulele
- Twin Valley South Marching Band
- Troy Christian Marching Band
- Celtic Academy of Irish Dance
- Possum Creek Ramblers
- Anna Local Schools
- Wright State Dance Team
- Pure Studio Performing Arts
- Dance Flash Fusion

Spotlight on Dayton showcased performance groups in the Dayton area – providing them a stage in front of a sold-out crowd. They included:

- UD Dance Team
- Show Boat Cloggers
- Olohana's Polynesian Dance
- Gem City Cloggers
- Wright State Dance Team

The Dragons **Celebrate Dayton** program recognized the Ohio 10th Congressional District Service Academy Appointees. These area students were selected by Congressman Mike Turner to receive congressional nominations for Ohio’s 10th Congressional District. Along with a congressional nomination, each of these Miami Valley students needed to meet rigorous academic and physical standards to obtain appointment into one of the five service academies.

During America 250 week, the Dragons hosted a **naturalization ceremony** for 12 new citizens from six countries who took their oath of allegiance on the field during an inning break of the Dragons game on July 2. The crowd then joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance with the newly naturalized citizens. This marked the seventh consecutive Dragons season in which a naturalization ceremony was held on the field during a Dragons game.

Dream Big Award presented by CYMI Holdings
The Dragons gave the "Dream Big Award" presented by CYMI Holdings to three individuals in the greater Dayton area who exemplified a stellar entrepreneurial spirit. These individuals and organizations were recognized for their determination and dedication to growing their own unique businesses and making the Miami Valley a better place to live, work, and play. The Silos, The Neon, and Val's Bakery were recognized as Dream Big Award winners in 2026.

National Anthem Tryouts, presented by *Dayton Daily News*, kicked off the beginning of baseball season in the Miami Valley by giving performers the opportunity to tryout to perform before a Dragons game. More than 250 groups and individuals auditioned in hopes of being selected to perform at a Dragons game.



ENTERTAINMENT

The Dragons popular collection of mascots and ballpark characters returned in 2026, including Heater, Gem, Blaze, the Green Team, Roofman, and traditional favorites the Retirement Village People. The Dragons also featured many special pre-game entertainment events on the plaza, animals, musical performances, dance groups, cheer squads, characters, and multiple car shows. Other outside entertainment included:

June 12 - Team Zoom
June 13 - BirdZerk
June 14 - ZOOperstars
June 28 - Team Zoom
July 23 - Frankfurter 500- Wiener Dog Race
Aug 7 - Star Wars Characters

In 2026, for the 16th year, young Dragons fans joined the **Dragons Kids Club**, presented by Hot Head Burritos. Starting at $29.99, members received a Gem City Dragons jersey, Dragons book bag, Gem City hat, a free kid's meal voucher for Hot Head Burritos, two (2) Dragons lawn tickets, and a Fun Zone pass. If fans bought more than two, every additional purchase was only $24.99.

Throughout the 2026 season, kids ages 7-13 signed up at local Kroger stores and on-line for a chance to be a part of **Dragons Baseball Buddies**, presented by Kroger. Those picked received the full Dragons experience including a replica Dragons jersey and hat, autographed baseball, photo opportunities, and getting to run out on the field with a Dragons player during the starting lineup. One lucky Grand Prize Dragons Baseball Buddy winner was randomly selected to have their own party at the ballpark with their family and friends. This party consisted of a private limousine ride to the ballpark, games on the field with Gem and the Dragons Green Team, photos, complimentary food and beverage, and even a shopping spree in the Dragons Den Team Store.

On May 29 and July 24, the Dragons hosted **Scout Overnighters**. On these nights, scouts from across the Miami Valley spent the night at Day Air Ballpark, camped on the outfield grass in tents. Scouts were able to watch *The Sandlot* and *How to Train Your Dragon* on the video board before going to sleep for the night.

DAY AIR BALLPARK EVENTS, HEART OF WATER STREET

The Dragons hosted a special celebration for **250 Years of America** during the 2026 season. Each game for the week of June 30-July 5 featured exciting moments and opportunities for fans to join in the celebration. The homestand was themed with patriotic fun led by the Dragons mascots, inflatable displays, face painting, and activities for kids. As part of the week, game tickets were only $17.76 and included a limited-edition Dragons hat. The July 4th game was followed by a fireworks show and gave fans the opportunity to purchase single-game tickets to the all-inclusive South Dayton Toyota Diamond Club and the Kona Big Wave Dragons Lair. The Dragons also produced a commemorative coin to celebrate America's 250th birthday and provided one to every fan.

On June 13, the Dragons hosted their annual **"Meet the Team"** session at Day Air Ballpark. Fans had the opportunity to meet the entire 2026 Dayton Dragons roster, collect autographs, and take photos with the players. On-field activities were led by players and coaches. Heater, Gem, and the Green Team were also on hand.

On July 31, Day Air Ballpark was turned into the ultimate movie theatre for **Donatos Movie Night**. Fans brought blankets and sat on the outfield grass to watch the family favorite *Lilo & Stitch* on the Dragons 2,000 sq. ft HD video board. Nearly 3,500 fans were in attendance. Fans could order a pizza from participating Dayton-area Donatos locations to receive a box top form to claim up to five free tickets to the event.

On August 1, the Dragons and Heidelberg Distributing Company partnered for the 18th annual **Great American Beer Tasting**, bringing a wide variety of beers, ciders, and seltzers to Day Air Ballpark for fans to try. Each beer tasting ticket provided 15 four-ounce samples, a raffle ticket for high-end prizes, a 2026 t-shirt if ordered before June 1, a souvenir pint glass, access to activities and games on the concourse, and more. Designated driver tickets were also available with samples of non-alcoholic beverages.

This season, the Dragons partnered with their major league affiliate, the Cincinnati Reds, to host "**Reds Day at the Dragons**." On August 9, the Dragons hosted Mr. Redlegs, Gapper, the Reds Rally Pack, the Reds Hall of Fame traveling exhibit, and Former Reds and Dragons catcher Tucker Barnhart threw out the first pitch at Day Air Ballpark.

Water Street District's **"Party at the Plaza"** took place three times at Day Air Ballpark in 2026. Jeff Stevens from iHeart Radio hosted the event with live music and entertainment skits with the Green Team and Dragons mascots, and featuring food trucks and a beer truck from Heidelberg Distributing. 2News from WDTN broadcasted live from the events.



The **University of Dayton baseball team** hosted Wright State University at Day Air Ballpark on April 15. A crowd of 4,854 was in attendance, one of the largest attendance totals ever for a UD baseball game. The tradition of an annual UD game at Day Air Ballpark is expected to continue in 2027.

The Dragons also hosted two **Baseball Block Parties at Rocky's ACE Hardware** locations. The parties included a baseball hitting station, pitching station, base running station, warm-up station, fielding station, and more. One event featured current Dragons players, while former Reds World Series Champion Doug Flynn was on location at the second event. Flynn and Dragon players signed autographs and assisted fans in honing their baseball skills. Heater, Gem, and the Green Team were also on hand to help put on carnival games and interacted at inflatables. Each event included a baseball scavenger hunt where fans could redeem the baseballs for Dragons prizes and get their face painted.

On the Field in 2026

Final Record: 67-63 (.515)
First Half: 39-27 (.5913) 1st in East Division
Second Half: 28-36 (.438), 5th in East Division

East Division Playoffs: Defeated Great Lakes, 2 games to 1
Midwest League Championship Series: Lost to Quad Cities, 2 games to 0

First-Ever Trip to the Midwest League Championship Series

On September 11, the Dragons defeated the Great Lakes Loons 5-0 at Day Air Ballpark to win the Midwest League East Division Playoff Series, two-games-to-one. The Dragons had forced a decisive third game of the series by winning game two of the set on September 10 at Day Air Ballpark, 3-1. The wins on September 10 and 11 were the first two home game playoff victories for the Dragons since 2011.

By winning this semi-final round playoff series, the Dragons advanced to the Midwest League Championship Series for the first time in franchise history. The Dragons finished the year as the MWL runner-up after losing to the Quad Cities River Bandits in the finals. The Dragons hosted Quad Cities in the second game of the series on September 15 at Day Air Ballpark, marking the first home game in a league championship series in Dragons history.

Record-Breaking Season

The Dragons broke many records in 2026, both as a team and individually. Some of the biggest were:

- The Dragons finished the year with the second highest home run total in Midwest League history (the league dates back to 1947).
- The Dragons broke their club record for most runs in a season.
- Dayton's John Michael Faile broke the Dragons club record for most career home runs.

See more information on these records in the timeline below.

Other Team Records and Memorable Moments on the Field in 2026

--Carlos Sanchez tied the Dragons club record by stealing bases in six consecutive games, April 17-22 (record shared by Billy Hamilton and Michael Siani; records available since 2005).

--The Dragons broke their club record for most runs in a game on May 20, topping Fort Wayne 22-8. The record of 21 had held up for 25 years after being set in 2001. The Dragons also tied their club record for most home runs in a game on May 20, matching the mark set in 2001 and 2007. In the game on May 20, the Dragons scored five runs in the first inning, keyed by a grand slam home run by Carter Graham, and jumped out to a 13-0 lead over the first two innings. Carlos Sanchez scored five runs, tying the record set by Austin Kearns (2000) and Wily Mo Pena (2001)…The Dragons had 11 extra base hits, most in a game since MLB assumed record-keeping duties in 2005 (no record of this stat prior to that year). Graham became the first Dayton player with four extra base hits in a game since Kevyn Feiner in 2009, Graham had 6 RBI…Sanchez and Alfredo Duno each had two home runs…Sanchez reached base in all six plate appearances, going 4 for 4 with two walks.

--Carter Graham collected eight RBI in one game vs. Great Lakes on May 28, tying the club record set in 2019 by Brian Rey. Graham broke the club record for most RBI in a home game, topping Juan Francisco's seven RBI in 2007. On June 18 at Peoria, Jacob Friend also tied the record with eight RBI in the final game of the half.



--In one of the most amazing endings to a game in Dragons history, Kien Vu completed a "true" steal of home to break a 4-4 tie with two outs and two strikes in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Dragons a walk-off win over Fort Wayne on June 11.

--On June 14 vs. Fort Wayne, the Dragons tied a club record for most home runs in a game with six. The Dragons finished the 6-game series with Fort Wayne with 18 HR, 61 runs, and 32 extra base hits, all team records for a series (MWL went to 6-game sets in 2021). The Dragons hit six HRs in one game three other times in '26.

--The Dragons hit 10 grand slams on the year, tying the league record by Wisconsin Rapids in 1981 and breaking the club record of five set in 2013 and 2023. The Dragons hit six grand slams in June and four within a six-game period from June 12-18. Alfredo Duno hit two grand slams in a three-game period June 12-14.

--On June 16 at Peoria, Carter Graham connected on his third grand slam home run of the season to establish a team record for most grand slams in a season and career with the Dragons. Since records on the topic became available in 2005, only five other Dragons players have hit two grand slams in one season (Jeremiah Piepkorn in 2005; Denis Phipps in 2007; Beau Amaral in 2013; Jack Rogers in 2023; Alfredo Duno in 2026).

--On June 18 at Peoria, the Dragons swept a doubleheader to clinch their third First Half East Division title in team history, and their first since 2007. In the second game, the Dragons beat the Chiefs 18-1 as Jacob Friend tied a club record with eight RBI while hitting two home runs including a grand slam. The Dragons hit six home runs in a game to tie their club record (for the third time in 2026).

--On June 18, the final game of the first half, the Dragons broke a club record (stats available since 2005) for most multi-home run games by a player over a single season when Jacob Friend had the Dragons 10th 2-homer game. The number of occurrences has since increased to 12. Dragons with two home runs in a game in 2026 include Carter Graham (3 times), Carlos Sanchez (2 times), Alfredo Alcantara (2 times), Peyton Stovall, Alfredo Duno, Yerlin Confidan, Jacob Friend, and Mason Neville.



--Carter Graham hit 11 home runs for the Dragons in June, the second highest HR total for a Dayton player in franchise history (Austin Kearns had 14 in July, 2000). Graham was selected as the Midwest League Player of the Month and Cincinnati Reds Minor League Player of the Month for June. He became the first Dayton hitter to be named MWL Player of the Month since Blake Dunn in April, 2023, and only the fourth since the award's inception in 2005.

--Brady Afthim tossed an immaculate inning in the eighth inning on July 21. Afthim struck out all three batters in the inning on the minimum nine pitches.

--On July 21, the Dragons posted one of their biggest comebacks in franchise history. They trailed 6-0 in the middle of the second inning, came back to take a 10-9 lead in the sixth, trailed 13-10 going to the bottom of the ninth but tied the game with three in the inning, and won in the 10th on Jacob Friend's sacrifice fly. This was the first time the Dragons won a game despite trailing by at least three runs in the ninth inning since 2024. The six-run deficit tied for sixth largest in a Dragons victory since 2001.

--On August 22, The Dragons hit their 153rd home run of the season to break the club record of 152 set in 2022. The Dragons finished the year with 180 home runs, the second highest total in Midwest League history.

--On September 5, John Michael Faile hit his 31st career home run, breaking the all-time Dragons club record for career home runs. Chris Williamson hit 30 homers over the Dragons first three seasons, 2000-2002.

--The Dragons scored 747 runs on the year but break the club record of 730 set in 2000.

--The Dragons finished the season by hitting at least one home run in their final 28 games, the longest home run streak anywhere in Full-Season Minor League Baseball since record-keeping of this statistic began in 2005.

Dragons Award Winners

Dragons Players Selected as Midwest League Player of the Month

Month	Player/Pitcher	Player	Notes
June	Player	Carter Graham	.354 Avg., 11 HR, 27, .829 slugging pct., 1.319 OPS.

2026 Dragons Players Selected as Cincinnati Reds Minor League Player and Pitcher of the Month

Month	Player/Pitcher	Player	Notes
May	Player	Alfredo Duno	.338 Avg., 8 HR, 17 RBI, .713 Slugging pct., 1.188 OPS
June	Player	Carter Graham	.354 Avg., 11 HR, 27, .829 slugging pct., 1.319 OPS.
June	Pitcher	Kyle McCoy	2-0, 1.88 ERA, 5 G, 24 IP, 17 H, 5 R, 9 BB, 28 SO.

2026 Dragons Players Selected as Midwest League Player and Pitcher of the Week

Date	Player/Pitcher	Player	Notes
May 4-10	Pitcher	Nestor Lorant	1-0, 0.00 ERA, 7 IP, 2 H, 0 R, 2 BB, 7 SO, 0.57 WHIP

2026 Dragons Batter and Pitcher of the First Half and Second Half

Half	Batter/Pitcher	Player	Notes
First	Batter	Carter Graham	.330, 15 HR, 55 RBI, .612 SLG, 1.069 OPS
First	Pitcher	Jacob Edwards	1.26 ERA, 35.2 IP, 27 H, 10 BB, 32 SO
Second	Batter	John Michael Faile	.278, 13 HR, 38 RBI, .556 SLG, .923 OPS
Second	Pitcher	Trent Hodgdon	9 Sv, 3.41 ERA, 31.2 IP, 22 H, 19 BB, 44 SO

2026 Dragons Team Batter and Pitcher of the Month

Date	Batter	Pitcher
April	Ryan McCrystal/Carlos Sanchez	Victor Diaz
May	Alfredo Duno	Cody Adcock
June	Carter Graham	Jacob Edwards
July	Tyson Lewis	Ty Floyd
Aug/Sept	John Michael Faile	Trent Hodgdon

2026 Dragons Team Batter and Pitcher of the Week

Date	Batter	Pitcher
April 7-12	Ryan McCrystal	Beau Blanchard
April 14-19	Carlos Sanchez	Victor Diaz
April 21-26	Kien Vu	Nestor Lorant
April 28-May 3	Carter Graham	Nestor Lorant
May 5-10	Alfredo Duno	Nestor Lorant
May 12-17	Yerlin Confidan	Cody Adcock
May 19-24	Carlos Sanchez	Jose Montero
May 26-31	Carter Graham	Reynardo Cruz
June 2-7	Carter Graham	Kyle McCoy
June 9-14	Kien Vu	Jose Montero
June 16-20	Jacob Friend	Kyle McCoy
June 22-28	Carlos Sanchez	Jimmy Romano
June 30-July 5	Ryan McCrystal	Kyle McCoy
July 7-12	Peyton Stovall	Ty Floyd
July 18-26	Tyson Lewis	Brady Afthim
July 28-Aug. 2	Mason Neville	Luke Hayden
August 4-9	John Michael Faile	Graham Osman
August 11-16	Justin Lebron	JP Ortiz
August 18-23	Ty Doucette	Edgar Colon
August 25-30	John Michael Faile	Mason Morris
Sept. 1-6	Kyle Henley	Victor Diaz
Playoffs	Ryan McCrystal	Kyle McCoy

2026 Dragons Team Leaders

Batting

Batting Average:	John Michael Faile, .278 (qualifier: minimum 356 plate app.)
	Carter Graham, .322 (non-qualifier: 292 plate app.)
Home Runs:	Carter Graham, 17
Runs Batted In:	Carter Graham, 60
Stolen Bases:	Kien Vu, 27
Games Played:	Alfredo Alcantara, 104

Pitching

Victories:	Jimmy Romano, 6
Earned Run Average:	Victor Diaz, 3.33 (non-qualifier; 51 IP)
Saves:	Trent Hodgdon, 11
Games Pitched:	Trent Hodgdon, 36
Innings Pitched:	Reynardo Cruz, 71.2
Strikeouts:	Victor Diaz, 76

Dragons among the Midwest League Leaders

<u>Batters</u>

Home Runs:	Carter Graham, Tied-14th (17)
Doubles:	Ryan McCrystal, Tied-12th (22)
Triples:	Kien Vu, Tied-4th (6)
Slugging Percentage:	John Michael Faile, 10th (.479)

<u>Pitchers</u>

Saves:	Trent Hodgdon, Tied-2nd (11)



2026 Dragons Injury Rehabilitation Assignments

Player	Position	MLB/MiLB	Games	Date/s
Jose Trevino	Catcher	MLB	1	April 24
Nick Lodolo	Pitcher	MLB	1	April 26
Julian Aguiar	Pitcher	MiLB	4	May 19-30, Sept. 6
Josh Staumont	Pitcher	MiLB	4	May 20-30
K'Bryan Hayes	Third Base/DH	MLB	2	July 3-4
Carson Spiers	Pitcher	MiLB	1	August 23
Jose Franco	Pitcher	MiLB	1	September 6

Dragons Broadcast Information in 2026

In 2026, 15 Dragons games were televised live on a major TV "over the air" station, Dayton's CW (Channel 26). All 130 regular season games and all five playoff games were broadcast on radio on WONE 980 AM and the Dragons Mobile App. The Dragons radio broadcasts featured Tom Nichols, Patrick Geshan; the TV broadcasts featured Nichols, Jack Pohl, Joey DeBerardino, Hutch Konerman, and Jeff Stephens.

The **Dragons YouTube** channel features great content all season long including "Around the Horn", "Mic'd Up", and "Extra Innings." Follow the Dragons YouTube channel for the latest and exclusive online content.

46 Former Dragons Played in Major Leagues in 2026

Former Dragons who Made Major League Baseball Debuts in 2026 (163 total since 2000)
Jose Franco (Reds)
Edwin Arroyo (Reds)
Ivan Johnson (Reds)
Hector Rodriguez (Reds)
Carlos Jorge (Reds)
Braxton Roxby (Giants)

Additional Former Dragons Who Played for the Reds in 2026 (23)

Andrew Abbott
Julian Aguiar
Tejay Antone
Graham Ashcraft
Chase Burns (Reds)
Elly De La Cruz
Blake Dunn
TJ Friedl
Hunter Greene
Rece Hinds
Nick Lodolo
Rhett Lowder
Noelvi Marte
Zach Maxwell (Reds)
Matt McLain
Luis Mey (Reds)
Chase Petty (Reds)
Connor Phillips
Lyon Richardson
Tony Santillan
Tyler Stephenson
Sal Stewart
Carson Spiers

Additional Former Dragons Who Played for Other MLB Teams in 2025 (18)
Jose Barrero (Orioles)
Brennan Bernardino (Rockies)
Joe Boyle (Rays)
Tyler Callihan (Pirates)
Daniel Duarte (Mets)
Stuart Fairchild (Guardians/Mariners)
Jonathan India (Royals)
Joel Kuhnel (Athletics/Brewers/Giants)
Michael Lorenzen (Blue Jays/Rockies)
Tyler Mahle (Giants/Braves)
Wandy Peralta (Padres)
Tanner Rainey (Tigers)
Christian Roa (Astros)
Miguel Rojas (Dodgers)
Michael Siani (Orioles)
Jose Siri (Angels)
Taylor Trammell (Astros)
Chad Tromp (Braves/Orioles)
###