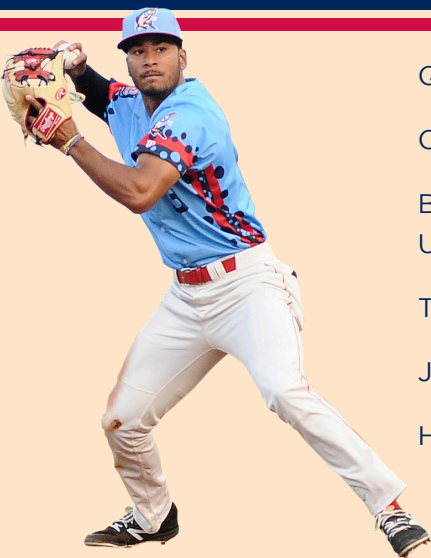


HOME BASE



**AVISTA
STADIUM**

IN THIS EDITION



Photos courtesy of
Janna Juday and James Snook

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Show**

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NOTABLE ALUMNI

HALL OF FAME

Stan Coveleski ('13 - '14) inducted 1969

Geroge Kelly ('14) inducted 1973

Tommy Lasorda ('69 - '71, manager) inducted 1997

Duke Snider ('65, manager) inducted 1980

Don Sutton ('68) inducted 1998

Hoyt Wilhelm ('71) inducted 1985

KEY PLAYERS

Sandy Alomar, Jr. ('84) 1990 MLB Rookie of the Year; 6-time MLB All Star

Carlos Beltran ('96) 1999 AL Rookie of the Year; 9-time MLB All Star

Bruce Bochy ('89, manager) 3-time World Series Champion

Bill Buckner ('69 - '70) MLB All-Star; 1982 NL batting title

Dolph Camilli ('48, manager) 2-time MLB All Star; 1941 NL MVP

Ron Cey ('71) 6-time MLB All Star

Chris Davis ('06) MLB All Star; MLB home run leader: 2013, 2015

Willie Davis ('60) 2-time MLB All Star; 1960 MiLB MVP

Steve Garvey ('70) 10-time MLB All Star; 1974 NL MVP

Zack Greinke ('02) 2009 AL Cy Young Award; 4-time MLB All Star

Ian Kinsler ('03) 4-time MLB All Star

Davey Lopes ('71) 4-time MLB All Star

Don Newcombe ('61) 4-time MLB All Star; 1949 NL Rookie of the Year; '56

NL Cy Young Award; 1956 NL MVP

Maury Wills ('59) 7-time MLB All Star; 1962 NL MVP

Ned Yost ('78) Manager: 2015 World Series Champion

Q & A WITH BLAINE CRIM



The 2019 Spokane Indians season ultimately ended in defeat in the Northwest League Championship series, but there was plenty of excitement along the way. The Indians won both the first and second half division titles and finished with an overall record of 45-31. There were a number of standout seasons by Indians players, but none more impressive than Alabama native Blaine Crim's 2019 campaign. The 19th round draft pick batted .335 with 15 doubles, 8 home runs and 45 RBI on his way to capturing the Northwest League Most Valuable Player Award. We had the chance to catch up with Blaine recently to talk about his time in Spokane

and how he's adjusted to life after leaving Spokane last September.

How have you been since returning home following your MVP season in Spokane?

I've been just taking it day-by-day really. I know that these circumstances are not ideal but I'm trying to make the most of the hand everyone's been dealt. I'm just thankful for my health as well as my family's.

We hear you're getting married in the fall, how's the planning going?

That planning is going great! We have locked down a venue and date so we can feel it coming fast. I know I can't wait for the day myself! It's been

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



nice to have time with my fiancé during this pandemic that I wouldn't have had originally.

How have you been staying in baseball shape during this time?

I've had access to a facility where I'm able to get all of my work in on a daily basis. I've also been coaching high school and college players which has kept my mind in somewhat playing shape!

Any new hobbies you have picked up during this quarantine?

I have been able to fish more than ever. I love fishing so it has been nice to get away and just be on the water often. I've also just enjoyed being at home with my loved ones.

What are some of your favorite memories of Spokane and the 2019 season?

My favorite memory is definitely clinching a playoff berth in the first half. It was a tough stretch for the team but we were able to pull it out which definitely was amazing to be a part of.

What was your favorite Spokane Indians jersey or promotion?

Favorite jersey by far was our Thursday blues! They just had a winning vibe about them and all of the guys enjoyed them. I also loved the Bark in the Park nights because I'm a huge dog guy.

Who is your favorite Spokane Indians Mascot? Why?

Recycleman all the way. He always brought the energy and kept the crowd involved, which really meant a lot to me.



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

What motivated you to start playing baseball? Any advice to young baseball players out there?

My dad was a baseball player and he's always been my hero so I wanted to follow in his footsteps. He's been with me from the beginning and I'll always appreciate that bond we have. My advice to young players would be to take it one day at a time and stay present. Don't worry about yesterday or tomorrow and just put all of your effort into winning that day!



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OTTO'S OPENING DAY



Fill in the missing words to complete OTTO's story. Make the story more unpredictable by having someone else fill in your words without you knowing the rest of the text!

The beginning of _____ meant one thing to
(season)
OTTO, it was time for _____ season at _____.
(sport) (location)
He was so excited to be back at the ballpark
with all of his favorite _____. Every summer, he
(plural noun)
enjoys watching the _____ from the top of the
(noun)
dugout while eating _____. Before heading to
(food)
the ballpark on Opening Day, OTTO _____ to
(past tense verb)
_____. Doris was _____ to see OTTO and that
(place) (adjective)
it was time to leave the winter _____ behind.
(object)
The thing they were most excited about was
that it was _____ for the Spokane Indians.
(promotional night)
Once at the ballpark, they cheered and sang
_____ to lead the Indians to victory.
(song)

BASEBALL AND BEYOND



CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

2019 Sustainability Report

The Spokane Indians remain committed to working towards a zero-waste ballpark. On Earth Day, April 22nd, 2020, the Indians released the 2019 Sustainability Report, the first of its kind among all minor league baseball teams.

The report includes the Indians progress towards sustainability in areas of water, waste, and energy. A focal point for the club is to continue to lessen their impact on the environment every year.

To see a full version of the report, visit: milb.com/Spokane/community/zerowaste



COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Q & A with Kat O'Melinn

Kat O'Melinn is the former Sustainability Manager for the Spokane Indians. After earning her MBA in Sustainable Business at the University of Oregon and working in the athletic department, she came to Spokane to grow the Indians

sustainability program.

What was the process you took to understand the needs of the Spokane Indians organization and develop the sustainability program?

My process to develop the sustainability program was to learn about MiLB, the Spokane Indians operations, and potential opportunities and challenges. This allowed me to provide a tailored strategy and vision to move our sustainability goals forward in a relevant way for the Spokane community.

How did you handle the different departments (concessions, promotions, sponsorships, and merchandise) to work towards the same goal of being zero waste?

Every department has their own goals but they all work together to create a successful baseball season. Through interviews I was able to understand the key priorities of each department to see where sustainability practices



could compliment them. Sustainability can be applied to all aspects of a business as it is a lens to utilize resources. Once you begin looking at how to make a department more sustainable it naturally trickles into other areas of the business.

For example, in concessions we looked at key items that could be phased into compostable items for the 2019 season and beyond. This then led to looking at stadium operations which determined we needed to build Zero Waste Stations around the ballpark and develop a Green Team to staff and sort the stations nightly. During games fans could participate in a Zero Waste Race and there was an in-stadium promotion which encouraged fans to sort their waste correctly at the Zero Waste Stations. Lucky fans were rewarded with reusable Spokane Indians gear from our Team Store, such as shirts and hats.

What was your driving factor to advocate for sustainability in sports?





because it has a massive reach and breaks down barriers in ways that other industries are unable to. It has the ability to educate fans while making it fun and entertaining like Recycleman has for the last decade. Operational changes at the stadium also allow for large positive environmental impacts as over 200,000 fans come to the stadium each year.

Do you have any resources for people who would like to implement more sustainable practices in their daily lives?

The first thing I suggest is looking at your food consumption patterns and your food waste. I would start by analyzing your daily habits

I first got involved in sustainability in sports through the University of Oregon, where I worked for the athletic department and I took a green sports class with guest speakers from the Green Sports Alliance, Major League Sports, and the Olympic Games. The speakers showcased how the sports industry is a unique platform

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to see where you generate the most waste and set a small goal for yourself to avoid being overwhelmed. This includes activities such as meatless Mondays, shopping at farmers markets or visiting Green Bluff to pick local fruit and vegetables. Supporting local food producers minimizes greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, supports the local economy and helps reduce spoilage and food waste which is a massive global challenge. The Spokane Indians and I set goals at an organizational level and decided to work towards being Zero Waste. This allowed us to determine annual goals and focus our resources over several seasons.



On social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, people can search for resources using the #zerowaste. There are many resource guides, blogs, and videos for all ages and experience levels. The first step is trying something small and building upon it. I also found by having discussions with friends and family new ideas are generated.



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TOP TEN MOMENTS OF THE DECADE



2010-2019

Here are the top 10 Spokane Indians moments of the last decade in no particular order:

1. Ruben Sierra Jr Walk-Off Grand Slam Wins Fan a New Truck: Friday, July 28, 2011 was a night to remember for local third grade teacher Leslie Vancil when she went home with an F-150 from Gus Johnson Ford thanks to Ruben Sierra Jr's game-ender with the bases loaded. It just goes to show you never know what you'll see - or win - at the ballpark on any given day.



2. 2015 NWL All-Star Game at Avista Stadium: The Spokane Indians played host to a revamped All-Star Game at Avista Stadium in 2015 - the first midsummer match-up that pitted the Northwest League against the Pioneer League. A sellout crowd of 7,083 was on hand for a star-studded spectacle that

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

featured a thrilling home run derby and future big leaguers like Eloy Jimenez, Dylan Moore and Willie Calhoun. The game itself was a back-and-forth affair with the NWL emerging triumphant, 6-5, on a walk-off hit from Tri-City's Peter Van Gansen.



3. Debut of the Redband Rally: Something fishy happened at Avista Stadium on July 7, 2017, and Spokane Indians games have never been the same since. The Redband Rally campaign, which was designed to bring awareness to the native Redband Trout and the health of the Spokane River, debuted that night as the team rallied for a 10-9 victory over the Hillsboro Hops. Fans were introduced to Redband headbands and a new mascot, Ribby the Redband Trout, while learning about the City of Spokane's efforts to protect our region's signature fish. The campaign earned national recognition from Ballpark Digest.

4. 200,000 fans in 2019: The best fans in baseball took it to another level last summer

when they helped the Spokane Indians crack 200,000 in attendance for the first time in their 37 years as a short-season affiliate. A total of 6,859 fans - the 10th sellout of the year - came to Avista Stadium on the season's final day, helping the Indians become just the sixth short-season team since 2005 to reach the mythical 200k mark.

5. Showdown with King Felix: A former Cy Young winner starting a game in the Northwest League? It sounds like fan fiction, but it happened on July 26, 2016 when Felix Hernandez took the mound for the Everett AquaSox on a rehab assignment. The Indians proved up to the challenge in the David vs. Goliath match-up, collecting six hits and three runs against King Felix in just 3 2/3 innings.



Photo Credit - Seattle Times

6. Combined Extra-Inning No-Hitter in 2014: No-hitters in the minor leagues are rarer than hen's teeth (Spokane's previous no-no had come all the way back in 2002) so what are the odds of four pitchers combining on an extra-inning no-hitter on the road, no less? Starting pitcher

Derek Thompson got the historic afternoon started with five solid innings against the AquaSox before turning the ball over to Shane McCain for the next three frames. Adam Parks kept Everett at bay in the 9th and 10th innings of a still scoreless game with Luke Tendlar's three-run blast finally giving the Indians a lead in the 11th. It was then all up to Luis Polloreña, who got the first two AquaSox hitters to fly out in the bottom of the 11th before ending the combined no-hitter with an emphatic strikeout.

7. Salish Jersey Displayed in HOF: The Spokane Indians baseball team and the Spokane Tribe of Indians are a unique partnership in the world of professional sports, and the National Baseball Hall of Fame recognized this by including their partnership in an educational model that educated fans and students about Native American logos



Photo Credit - Milo Stewart Jr./National
16 Baseball Hall of Fame

and mascots in sports. The team's uniform, which featured "Spokane" written in the Spokane Tribe's traditional Salish language starting in 2014, was also on display at the 2017 All-Star Game in Miami.



Photo Credit - USA Today Sports

8. Kyle Hendricks/Carl Edwards Jr. Lead Cubs to World Series Title: All it took for the Chicago Cubs to win their first World Series in 108 years was a pair of former Spokane Indians pitchers. Kyle Hendricks ('11), who was lights out all postseason, delivered a terrific start against Cleveland in Game 7 (4.2 IP, 1 ER) - and no, we still have not forgiven Joe Maddon for removing him from the game so early - while Carl Edwards Jr ('12) picked up the first two outs of the 10th inning before handing the ball over to Mike Montgomery to seal the deal.

9. Playoff Game at Safeco Field: Only a handful of players from the 2016 squad are likely to reach the majors (only one, CD Pelham, has thus far), but they can all say they played on a big league field. After a heavy rain rendered

Everett's Memorial Stadium unplayable, Game Two of the NWL Playoffs between the Indians and AquaSox was shifted to Safeco Field. Although the Indians would ultimately lose the game and the series, they can always say they got to play on the same field as Ken Griffey Jr.



10. Air Force Sergeant Surprises Family: There wasn't a dry eye in the ballpark on August 8, 2011 when Sgt. Chris

Weichman shocked his family by appearing on the field after returning from a third tour of duty in Afghanistan. His twin 4-year-old daughters, Gracie and Ruby, had been selected to compete in the Spokesman-Review Newspaper Toss promotion along with Weichman's wife, Abby. At the conclusion of the promotion, Spokane's P.A. announcer directed everyone's attention to the home dugout, where Sgt. Weichman appeared to the delight of his family and fans at Avista Stadium. When Weichman's daughters realized what was happening, they rushed across the field to their dad's open arms as the crowd and both dugouts rose to their feet for a standing ovation.



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JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		21 	22 	23 	24	25
26 	27 	28 	29 	30 	31	

JULY

Infield Cafe open Monday - Thursday 11AM - 2PM

21 **Diosbel Arias** birthday ('18)

22 **2019**: Indians clinch 1st half NWL title

23 **MLB Opening Day**

26 **Hoyt Wilhelm** birthday ('71)

28 **Nic Laio** birthday ('19)

29 **1996**: Legendary Indians manager, Tommy Lasorda, announces retirement after 20 seasons w/ the LA Dodgers

AUGUST

1 **Starling Joseph** birthday ('18-'19)

2 **Jayce Easley** birthday ('19)

Colby Lewis birthday ('16)












7 **2019**: Blaine Crim named top star for the NWL at the NWL vs. PBL All-Star Game

8 Frank Howard birthday ('59 - '60)

9 **Bobby Brett** birthday

10 **2014**: Four Spokane Indians pitchers combined for an 11-inning no-hitter against the AquaSox In Eugene.

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 
2 	3	4	5	6	7 	8 
9 	10 	11 	12 	13	14	15
16	17	18 	19 	20 	21 	22
23 	24	25 	26	27	28	29
30	31					

11 **Al Pedrique** birthday ('95, manager)

12 **Ed Yong** birthday

Matt Clement birthday ('94)

18 **2019**: Zack Greinke ('02) wins 200th MLB game

19 **Ned Yost** birthday ('78)

20-23 **Hoopfest Homecourt**

20 **Tom Brunansky** birthday ('82)

21 **Josh Roys** birthday

Jesse Chavez birthday ('03)

23 **1989**: Tommy Lasorda had the Montreal Expos beloved mascot, Youppi, ejected from the game for bothering Dodgers players

25. **Gary Matthews Jr** birthday ('94)

HOMETOWN HERO ~ KATIE TOLLEY



accepted a promotion to Communications Editor and Development Coordinator, allowing me to promote our agency's work, build community partnerships, and do more community outreach.

How does the work you do at LCS help the community?

I get to "help the helpers." LCSNW's Crime Victim Advocates, Foster Care and WISE staff, and Mental Health Clinicians are the most incredible people I've ever had the pleasure to work with. They do the hard work every day to help people heal from unimaginable trauma. I get the privilege of sharing their stories and helping connect our community with their compassionate work.

The Spokane Indians are thankful for the community members who are making an impact, not only on the greater Spokane community, but on the people that they interact with. Katie Tolley embodies this by her work with Lutheran Community Services (LCS), volunteer work with various local non-profit organizations, and advocacy efforts. We had the chance to get to know Katie better with the following:

How long have you worked with LCS? What is your role?

I was lucky enough to join the LCS Northwest team in October 2016 as the administrative assistant to both the COO and local District Director as well as coordinator of the annual Chocolate & Champagne Gala. I recently



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE 19



How has this changed during this pandemic?

The culture of our Spokane agency is difficult to describe, but one I wish everyone had the opportunity to experience so it's been difficult to work remotely, away from all of them. Our team is innovative and resilient though, so we do all we can to ensure

connection with our clients and one another remotely. We offer info sessions online and some of the teams have even organized drive-by celebrations for some of our clients that have reached milestones. For now, we rely heavily on social media outreach and the team sees clients via telehealth.

If anyone reading this wants to learn more about, or get involved with LCS, where should they go?

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Are you involved in any other local non-profits?

I serve on the executive committee for the Inland Northwest Development Council and love volunteering on occasion for The Arc of Spokane, the Northeast Youth Center, and the Tree of Sharing. In 2018 I also became a Washington Certified Sexual Assault & Crime Victim Advocate so I could volunteer as a Crisis Response Advocate for LCS Northwest's 24/7 sexual assault crisis line.

We hear you worked for the Indians at one point. How was that experience?

I loved working as a game day staff for the Spokane Indians and always said it was my "fun job!" I committed to the 2015 season shortly after the birth of my daughter and quickly found myself overwhelmed as a new mom working two jobs. The team was so gracious, encouraged me to take care of myself, and allowed me to adjust my schedule. Though that was the last season I worked, I truly appreciate the training each employee receives with



regard to safety, organizational culture, and guest experience. It's something I've shared with other employers as a great example.

What's your favorite quote?

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou

The Spokane Indians are grateful for people like Katie, who make it their mission to advocate for others who may not have the resources to do so themselves. To submit nominations for future Hometown Hero's, visit:

**[milb.com/spokane/
community/hometownhero](http://milb.com/spokane/community/hometownhero)**

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