

On-Line Exclusive Version

# THRESHER TIMES

Volume 16 • Issue 1

*Aidan Miller*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL 12 FIREWORKS BY SYSCO

APRIL 13 FIREWORKS BY KELLI'S CATERING

APRIL 26 BEACH DOGS, WHISKEY COUNTY CONCERT  
BY TRULY HARD SELTZER

APRIL 27 STAR WARS NIGHT, FIREWORKS  
BY CITY WIDE FACILITY SOLUTIONS



Phillies

Official Magazine  
Of The 2024 Season

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Ballpark

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*Phillies*<sup>®</sup>





# THRESHERS TIMES



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 2024 SEASON • VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 1  
601 N. Old Coachman Rd. • Clearwater, FL • 33765 • Administration: 727-712-4300 • Tickets: 727-467-4457

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**70 ANGLERS**

**Editor:**  
Robert Stretch

**Associate Editors:**  
Riley O'Neal  
Josh Sperber

**Photography:**  
Philadelphia Phillies  
Clearwater Threshers

**Layout and Design:**  
Mark Prince

**Printing:**  
Graphic Art Productions  
Safety Harbor, FL  
727-455-9028



# THRESHERS TIMES



## SCHEDULE & PROMOTIONS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					BRD	BRD
7	BRD	9	FTM	10	FTM	11
			FTM	12	FTM	13
14	FTM	15	DUN	17	DUN	18
				DUN	19	DUN
21	DUN	22	BRD	23	BRD	24
			BRD	25	BRD	26
28	BRD	29	30	LAK	<b>APRIL</b>	

DATE	PROMOTION
April 12	Fireworks by Sysco
April 13	Fireworks by Kelli's Catering
April 26	Beach Dogs, Whiskey County Concert by Truly Hard Seltzer
April 27	Star Wars Night, Fireworks by City Wide Facility Solutions

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>MAY</b>						
			LAK	2	LAK	3
			LAK	4	LAK	5
5	LAK	6	TAM*	7	TAM	8
			TAM	9	TAM	10
12	TAM	13	14	DBT	15	DBT
			6:30p	12:00p	6:30p	12:00p
17	DBT	18	STL	19	STL	20
			12:00p	6:30p	12:00p	6:30p
26	STL	27	LAK	28	LAK	29
			6:30p	12:00p	6:30p	12:00p

DATE	PROMOTION
May 15	Education Day
May 17	Uncle John's Band Concert by Truly Hard Seltzer
May 18	Fireworks by Wawa
May	American Athletic Conference
21-26	Baseball Tournament
May 31	Beach Dogs, Pitch for Pink and Beach Bag Giveaway by Banquet Masters

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>JUNE</b>						
						LAK
						6:30p
2	LAK	3	4	BRD	5	BRD
				BRD	6	BRD
9	BRD	10	TAM	11	TAM	12
			6:30p	12:00p	6:30p	12:00p
16	TAM	17	18	JUP	19	JUP
				6:30p	12:00p	6:30p
23	JUP	24	25	26	27	28
			BRD	BRD	BRD	BRD
30	BRD	31	BRD	BRD	BRD	BRD

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	DUN	DUN	DUN	DUN	DUN	DUN
	6:30p	6:30p	6:30p	6:30p	6:30p	6:30p
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		PMB	PMB	PMB	PMB	PMB
14	PMB	15	16	17	18	19
					FTM	FTM
21	FTM	22	TAM	23	TAM	24
	12:00p		6:30p	12:00p	6:30p	12:00p
28	TAM	29	30	31	JUP	JUP
					12:00p	12:00p

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>AUGUST</b>						
				1	2	3
				JUP	JUP	JUP
				6:30p	6:30p	6:30p
4	JUP	5	6	LAK	7	LAK
	12:00p			LAK	8	LAK
11	LAK	12	13	TAM	14	TAM
				6:30p	6:30p	6:30p
18	TAM	19	20	21	22	23
	12:00p		DUN	DUN	DUN	DUN
25	DUN	26	27	28	29	30
	12:00p		FTM	FTM	FTM	FTM

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	FTM	2	3	4	5	6
	12:00p		STL	STL	STL	STL
			6:30p	6:30p	6:30p	6:30p
8	STL	9	10	11	12	13
	12:00p					

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

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

Home Game  
  Away Game  
 \* Doubleheader

<b>TUESDAY</b>  \$11 BERN TICKET \$11 HOT DOGS \$11 1/2 OZ. CRAFT AND MORE!	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>  SENIORS CLUB BayCare	<b>THURSDAY</b>  1/2 PRICE DRINKS INCL. 24 OZ CRAFT DRAFTS 10% OFF BayCare	<b>FRIDAY</b> GIVEAWAYS CONCERTS 	<b>SATURDAY</b> FIREWORKS! EVERY SATURDAY HOME GAME	<b>SUNDAY</b> SEASON TICKET HOLDERS EAT FREE
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# THRESHERSTIMES



## THRESHERS GM WELCOME



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

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

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

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

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

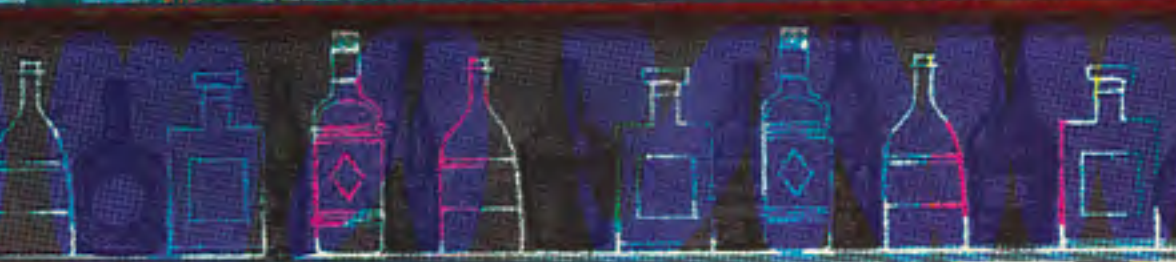
*Jason Adams*

Jason Adams  
Clearwater Threshers General Manager



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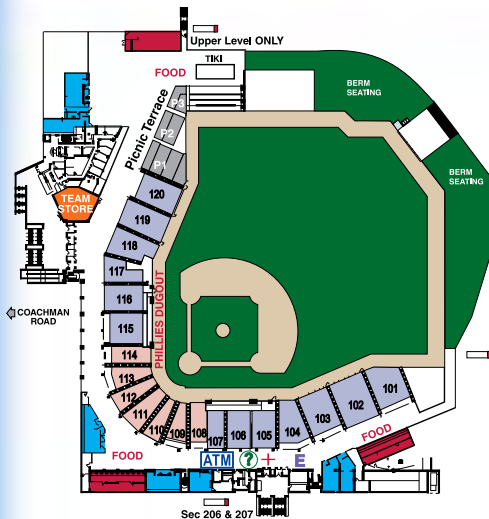
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# THRESHERS TIMES



## BAYCARE BALLPARK INFORMATION



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### ATM

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

### BAGS & BACKPACKS

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

### BATS

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

### BERM SEATING

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

### CHILD TICKETS

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

### CUSTOMER SERVICE & ADVANCE TICKETS

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

### FIRST AID

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

### FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

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

### FOUL BALLS

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

### GATES OPEN

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

### HANDICAPPED SEATING

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

### KIDS ZONE

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

### LOST AND FOUND

Located at Customer Service behind Section 106.

### SENIOR TICKETS

Seniors 55+ may purchase discounted tickets.

### SMOKING

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

### TEAM STORE

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

### TIKI PAVILION

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

### WEAPONS

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





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YOU.





## THRESHERS FRONT OFFICE

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

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## MARTY MALLOY MANAGER

**Born:** Gainesville, FL

**Resides:** Trenton, FL... Former infielder. Returns to manage Clearwater (A) for 2024. Spent two years as minor league infield coordinator (2020-21) before returning to manage the Threshers in the second half of the 2021 season. Previously served as a minor league manager for three years with Clearwater (2019) and Lakewood (A, 2017-18). Was the 2022 winner of the John Vukovich Award. Prior to joining the

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





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## THRESHERS FIELD STAFF



**TIM COLLINS**  
PITCHING COACH

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



**GUSTAVO ARMAS**  
PITCHING COACH

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



**CHRIS HEINTZ**  
HITTING COACH

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



**MYCAL JONES**  
BENCH COACH

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



**JOHN RYAN MURPHY**  
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT INSTRUCTOR

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



**SAMANTHA MYERS**  
ATHLETIC TRAINER

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



**JOSEPH MIRANDA**  
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH

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

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# THRESHERS TIMES




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



**STARLYN CASTILLO**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 5'11" | WT: 210  
 BORN: February 24, 2002  
 HOMETOWN: Santo Domingo, DR  
 2023 CLUBS: Threshers, FCL



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



**TREY DILLARD**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'1" | WT: 228  
 BORN: November 15, 1998  
 HOMETOWN: Phoenix, AZ  
 2023 CLUB: Threshers



**WILLIAM BERGOLLA**  
 INF  
 B/T: L/R  
 HT: 5'11" | WT: 177  
 BORN: October 20, 2004  
 HOMETOWN: Valencia, VZ  
 2023 CLUB: Threshers



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



**CAM BROWN**  
 RHP  
 B/T: R/R  
 HT: 6'2" | WT: 226  
 BORN: October 15, 2001  
 HOMETOWN: Flower Mound, TX  
 2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



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



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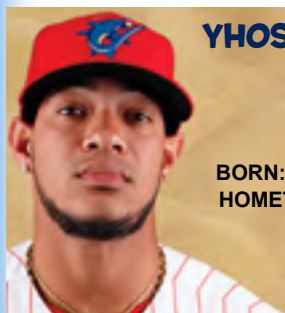
## TRENT FARQUHAR

INF  
B/T: L/R  
HT: 5'9" | WT: 192  
BORN: March 12, 2001  
Hometown: Highland, MI  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



## GEORGE KLASSEN

RHP  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'1" | WT: 186  
BORN: January 26, 2002  
HOMETOWN: Port Washington, WI  
2023 CLUB: University of Minnesota (NCAA)



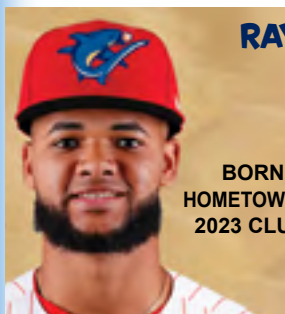
## YHOSWAR GARCIA

OF  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 5'10" | WT: 166  
BORN: September 13, 2001  
HOMETOWN: Porlamar, VZ  
2023 CLUB: FCL



## AIDAN MILLER

INF  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'2" | WT: 212  
BORN: June 9, 2004  
HOMETOWN: Trinity, FL  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



## RAYLIN HEREDIA

OF  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'0" | WT: 207  
BORN: November 10, 2003  
HOMETOWN: Santo Domingo, DR  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



## MICAH OTTENBREIT

RHP  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'4" | WT: 209  
BORN: May 7, 2003  
HOMETOWN: Grosselle, MI  
2023 CLUB: FCL



## KEHDEN HETTIGER

C  
B/T: S/R  
HT: 6'2" | WT: 209  
BORN: May 25, 2004  
HOMETOWN: Palmdale, CA  
2023 CLUB: FCL



## AVERY OWUSU-ASIEDU

OF  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'5" | WT: 241  
BORN: June 16, 2003  
HOMETOWN: Waukesha, WI  
2023 CLUB: FCL

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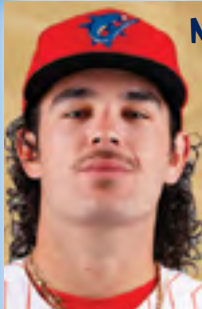


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# THRESHERS TIMES



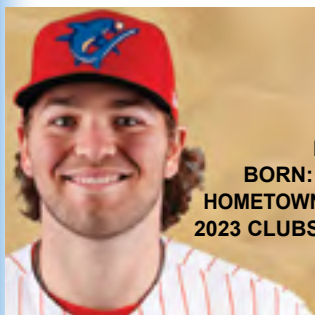
## NIKAU POUAKA-GREGO

INF  
B/T: L/R  
HT: 5'9" | WT: 167  
BORN: September 13, 2004  
HOMETOWN: Melbourne, AUS  
2023 CLUB: DNP (Injured)



## DEVIN SALTIBAN

INF  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 5'9" | WT: 185  
BORN: February 14, 2005  
HOMETOWN: Las Vegas, NV  
2023 CLUB: FCL



## ALEX RAO

RHP  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'4" | WT: 228  
BORN: October 25, 1999  
HOMETOWN: Hobe Sound, FL  
2023 CLUBS: Threshers, FCL



## GUSTAVO SOSA

C  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'1" | WT: 220  
BORN: July 17, 2001  
HOMETOWN: Staten Island, NY  
2023 CLUB: FCL



## MASON RONAN

LHP  
B/T: L/L  
HT: 6'2" | WT: 239  
BORN: March 3, 2000  
HOMETOWN: Ashville, PA  
2023 CLUBS: Threshers, FCL



## CASEY STEWARD

RHP  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'6" | WT: 262  
BORN: August 2, 2001  
HOMETOWN: Wichita, KS  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



## LUKE RUSSO

RHP  
B/T: L/R  
HT: 6'5" | WT: 211  
BORN: February 21, 2001  
HOMETOWN: Howell, MI  
2023 CLUB: Eastern Michigan University (NCAA)



## EDUARDO TAIT

C  
B/T: L/R  
HT: 5'11" | WT: 219  
BORN: August 27, 2006  
HOMETOWN: Arraijan, PAN  
2023 CLUB: DSL



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**SAUL TERAN**

RHP  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'1" | WT: 192  
BORN: March 20, 2002  
HOMETOWN: Caracas, VZ  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**EZEQUIEL VENTURA**

RHP  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'1" | WT: 181  
BORN: June 20, 2002  
HOMETOWN: Maracaibo, VZ  
2023 CLUBS: DSL-R, FCL, Threshers



**PAXTON THOMPSON**

RHP  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'1" | WT: 203  
BORN: October 5, 1999  
HOMETOWN: Richmond Hill, GA  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**JORDAN VIARS**

OF  
B/T: L/L  
6'3" | 224  
BORN: July 18, 2003  
HOMETOWN: Prosper, TX  
2023 CLUB: Threshers



**BRAYDON TUCKER**

RHP  
B/T: L/R  
HT: 6'3" | WT: 213  
BORN: July 19, 1999  
HOMETOWN: Brazil, IN  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**TJAY WALTON**

OF  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'2" | WT: 237  
BORN: January 29, 2005  
HOMETOWN: Emporia, VA  
2023 CLUB: FCL



**GIUSSEPE VELÁSQUEZ**

RHP  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'1" | WT: 247  
BORN: April 30, 2003  
HOMETOWN: Porlamar, VZ  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



**BRYSON WARE**

INF  
B/T: R/R  
HT: 6'2" | WT: 207  
BORN: December 28, 2000  
HOMETOWN: Madison, MS  
2023 CLUBS: FCL, Threshers



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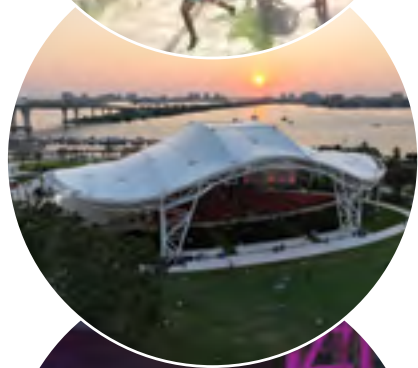
- April 13-14 Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge**
- April 13 The Market Marie**
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- April 28 Social Distortion & Bad Religion with Special Guests The Lovebombs at The BayCare Sound**



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## 2024 THRESHERS FINAL STATISTICS

#	TEAM BATTING	POS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
12	Bergolla, W	INF	.255	55	192	26	49	0	20	30	17	2
23	Boyd, E	OF	.262	91	343	68	90	1	36	35	60	56
25	Brito, E	INF	.278	44	144	21	40	2	20	15	27	14
24	Castillo, C	INF	.246	72	248	36	61	11	37	21	65	4
13	Crawford, J	OF	.344	69	276	51	95	3	60	25	53	40
7	Dissin, J	C	.252	65	226	40	57	4	35	32	83	1
17	Fergus, C	OF	.255	74	220	48	56	12	47	29	90	10
9	Kemp, O	INF	.251	78	263	57	66	7	43	49	79	17
52	Leitch, R	C	.247	45	158	25	39	7	23	13	55	0
28	Moore, C	INF	.250	47	156	25	39	3	16	25	52	2
50	Reyes, F	INF/OF	.264	67	250	28	66	9	62	17	30	6
5	Rincon, B	INF	.228	81	276	49	63	8	45	59	63	23
45	Rincones Jr., G	OF	.264	48	178	31	47	5	21	28	55	24
37	Rosario, R	OF	.236	75	276	45	65	7	39	38	63	29
4	Schreffler, T	OF	.289	42	121	28	35	6	24	22	34	11
33	Viars, J	OF	.214	83	280	43	60	6	29	27	88	6
	Team Total		.257	129	4232	716	1088	99	633	539	1075	270

#	TEAM PITCHING	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	ER	BB	SO
19	Aldigheri, S	3	1	3.86	16	15	0	67.2	59	29	30	79
43	Bortka, J	1	0	3.68	20	0	2	29.1	12	12	19	43
16	Cabrera, J	5	7	4.32	19	13	1	81.1	108	39	22	86
46	Castellano, E	3	2	5.04	22	7	0	50.0	55	28	28	58
26	Dallas, J	2	2	0.60	19	0	7	30.0	25	2	12	31
10	Estanista, J	2	0	8.51	13	1	0	24.1	26	23	27	28
35	Fausnaught, B	2	4	4.57	24	7	1	63	54	32	39	64
18	Harper, D	2	1	6.42	23	0	1	33.2	42	24	25	27
6	Henriquez, J	14	1	3.21	30	0	3	61.2	39	22	36	60
31	Jiménez, E	4	8	3.60	21	19	0	90	83	36	39	78
47	McFarlane, A	0	4	5.72	16	16	0	50.1	46	32	38	69
23	Moore, W	4	0	0.72	17	0	2	25	14	2	12	39
38	Pan, W	4	1	2.81	27	1	7	57.2	31	18	19	81
40	Petit, J	3	3	5.24	21	17	0	80.2	79	47	33	76
54	Rao, A	0	3	6.00	15	6	0	27	28	18	14	33
49	Velasquez, G	1	1	5.40	5	5	0	21.2	18	13	11	22
11	Walling, A	6	1	3.23	26	0	5	39	29	14	26	46
48	Wilkinson, D	6	0	4.45	34	0	1	56.2	36	28	44	106
	Team Total	79	50	4.38	129	129	36	1122.2	978	546	650	1278

\*Double and triple play are from field of recorded plays through July 31



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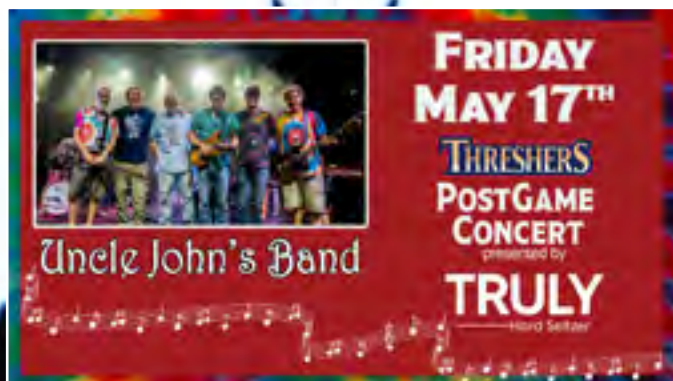
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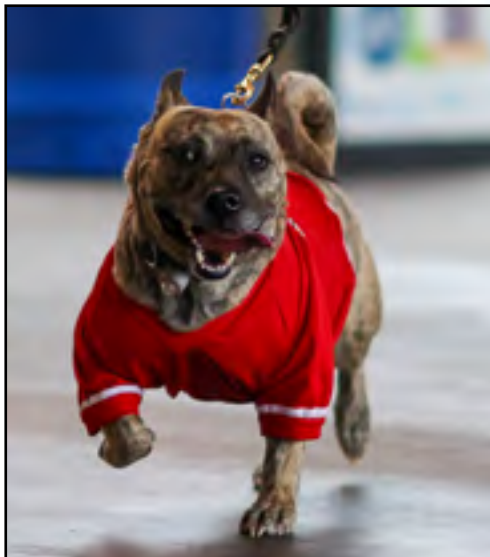
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# THRESHERS TIMES



## CLEARWATER Beach Dogs FRIDAYS



### Beach Dogs Fridays

**April 26**

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

**May 31**

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

**June 28**

Dog tickets benefit Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People).  
Postgame The Black Honkeys Band Concert by Truly Hard Seltzer.

**July 19**

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

Dog tickets benefit the Humane Society of Pinellas.  
Ballpark Replica Giveaway by Coppertail Brewing Co.

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July 3  
July 20

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September 7



# THRESHERSTIMES



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 Stadium: Coca-Cola Park  
 President & GM: Kurt Landes  
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 Allentown, PA 18109  
 Phone: (610) 841-7447  
 Website: [www.ironpigsbaseball.com](http://www.ironpigsbaseball.com)



### READING FIGHTIN PHILS

Double-A Eastern League  
 Phillies affiliate since 1967  
 Stadium: FirstEnergy Stadium  
 GM: Scott Hunsicker  
 Office Address:  
 1900 Centre Avenue | Route 61 South  
 Reading, PA 19605  
 Phone: (610) 375-8469  
 Website: [fightins.com](http://fightins.com)



### JERSEY SHORE BLUECLAWS

High-A South Atlantic League  
 Phillies affiliate since 2000  
 Stadium: ShoreTown Ballpark  
 GM: Bob McLane  
 Office Address:  
 2 Stadium Way  
 Lakewood, NJ 08701  
 Phone: (732) 901-7000  
 Website: [www.blueclaws.com](http://www.blueclaws.com)



### CLEARWATER THRESHERS

Single-A Florida State League  
 Phillies affiliate since 1985  
 Stadium: BayCare Ballpark  
 GM: Jason Adams  
 Office Address:  
 601 Old Coachman Road  
 Clearwater, FL 33765  
 Phone: (727) 712-4300  
 Website: [www.threshersbaseball.com](http://www.threshersbaseball.com)

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# THRESHERS TIMES



## THRESHERS APRIL OPPONENTS

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 Manager: Brian Meyer



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**Bradenton Marauders**  
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 Manager: Jim Horner



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## Scoring Basics...

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

If the hitter grounds out to shortstop, for example, write in "5-3," which shows the shortstop threw him out at first base. If the hitter flies out to left field, write a "7."

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

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

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

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

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

## Example Scorecard...

### 1st Inning

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

Team	Batter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Double Fielder													
2. Shortstop													
3. 1st Baseman													
4. 3rd Baseman													
5. Right Fielder													
6. Left Fielder													
7. Designated Hitter													
8. 2nd Baseman													
9. Catcher													

### 2nd Inning

1. Leads-off with double.
1. Fled out to centerfield.
2. Popped out to shortstop.
3. Struckout swinging.

## Defensive Players by the Numbers...



1. Pitcher
2. Catcher
3. First Baseman
4. Second Baseman
5. Third Baseman
6. Shortstop
7. Left Fielder
8. Center Fielder
9. Right Fielder

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## Player Spotlight: Aidan Miller

By Josh Sperber

**Spring Training Springboard**  
*How Growing up Around the Grapefruit League  
Fostered Aidan Miller's Love for Baseball*



People use the phrase “living the dream” often, so much so that it seems somewhat downplayed when someone is truly living out their childhood dreams. For many children across the globe (the writer of this article included), that dream is to become a professional baseball player. Whether it comes from the thrill of watching your first home run live, feeling the roar of the crowd from your television set or bleacher seat, the great game of baseball is embedded in the DNA of so many of us.

That is certainly true for Phillies’ 2023 first-round draft pick Aidan Miller, who grew up in New Port Richey, roughly a one-hour drive from BayCare Ballpark. From following the footsteps of his family members who started him in the game to getting on the field as a young kid, Miller is truly living out the childhood dreams of many, including his own, as he begins his professional baseball career.

Baseball was a constant in the Miller household from an early age. Aidan’s father played baseball growing up and passed the love of the game on to Aidan and his older brother

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Jackson. Being roughly one hour from multiple Spring Training Ballparks, attending Grapefruit League games was routine for the Miller family. “I came to a ton of Phillies Spring Training games growing up,” Miller recalled. “I remember playing on the berm and just having fun being a kid. It’s so cool seeing the little kids here because it reminds me of myself back then, it all comes full circle.”

Though the hometown Rays were in the middle of their sixth season when Aidan was born, the proximity of BayCare Ballpark to his childhood home kept the Phillies in Aidan’s heart from a young age. He even participated in the “Baseball Buddies” pregame tradition as a kid, getting the chance to run on the field with legendary Phillies second baseman Chase Utley. Given Aidan’s eventual choice in position on the field, running out with a six-time all-star infielder seems like it was a sign of things to come.

Originally, Aidan wanted to be a catcher when he began playing baseball. His older brother, Jackson, was a catcher growing

up, and was drafted as a backstop by the Cincinnati Reds 65th overall in the 2020 MLB Draft. “My dad always said I was too athletic [to be a catcher] and my feet were too good, so he stuck me in the infield,” Aidan said of how he came to play infield. “I really play everywhere but right now the Phillies have me playing shortstop and it’s really fun.”

Though infield may not have been his first choice, Aidan quickly adapted to the position, primarily playing at third base and shortstop. His skill set was so advanced that he jumped up a few levels, playing on his older brother’s teams despite being 2.5 years younger than Jackson. Playing with an older group of children not only accelerated Aidan’s development, but the challenge helped foster a deeper love for the game of baseball.

It wasn’t long before pro scouts began to watch Aidan play, seeing great raw hitting talent and strong fielding ability at multiple positions across the infield. For many younger children, that kind of pressure can be daunting. For Aidan, however, it was something he had seen before. His brother Jackson was heavily scouted too, so Aidan learned how to handle and interact with scouts from his older brother. “Getting to see everything from his perspective before I got into it was a big advantage for me,” said Aidan of his experiences being scouted. “I got to be familiar with the whole process and what to expect when I got here.”





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He handled the attention with ease, routinely attracting scouts from top colleges and MLB teams to many of his high school and travel ball games. Heading into his senior year of high school, Aidan was widely considered to be one of the top high school prospects in the country and expected to be a top pick in the 2023 MLB Draft.

The 2023 season began on a bad note for Aidan, with a broken hamate bone in his left hand ending his final high school season in his first at-bat of the year. Despite his advanced skill set and ability, many MLB teams were concerned about the injury, and it caused Aidan's draft stock to fall. Not overly concerned with potential draft position, Miller was faced with a lost season in front of him, which was the most frustrating part for the top prospect.

Aidan relied heavily on his brother, Jackson, who was frequently struck by the injury bug over his first few seasons in the Reds' minor

league system. "Seeing how he dealt with it was super inspiring for me, and I think it helped me deal with my injury and made it seem like nothing compared to what he went through," Aidan said of his brother's counsel during his injured season. "Whatever questions I had, anything I needed I always asked [Jackson] because he's been through it."

Despite the injury in his graduation year, Aidan was still ranked as a top-20 prospect on most MLB Draft Boards, and a top-10 High School prospect as well. Ultimately Aidan "fell" to the Phillies with the 27th overall pick, a selection many experts called the steal of the first round.

As difficult as coping with an injury at a key time for a High School student-athlete was, Aidan will tell you it was worth it. "I know the player I am; I know what I've done and maybe I deserved to go higher in the draft, but I use it as motivation, a chip on my shoulder," said Miller of his selection in the draft. "I may have fell down to the Phillies, but I ended up in the best situation possible."

With his parents still living close to his new home at BayCare Ballpark, he was able to stay near his family while going through this huge transition period in his young life. Not to mention, Aidan has been attending Phillies Spring Training games in Clearwater for as long as he can remember, so he embarked on a new journey in very familiar territory.

A familiar field or not, the jump from high school to the pros is never easy, and Aidan was faced with his first game back from

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injury being at the pro level, despite beginning 2023 as a high school senior. “I didn’t get to play for 6-7 months and then my first game back was right in professional baseball, it was a little nerve-wracking at first but a lot of fun.”

He began his professional career in the Florida Complex League and went 3-4 with a double in his first pro game, finishing with a .414 batting average over his 10 FCL games before he was promoted to the Threshers. He flashed all the tools in his ten regular season games with Clearwater, stealing four bases and smacking eight hits in the final ten games of the year.

During Clearwater’s postseason run, Aidan finished top-five in every single hitting category among Florida State League playoff participants, including a playoff-best eight hits and .348 average, as well as his first-career home run, a deciding factor in a 2-1 win that sent the Threshers to the championship series.

The Threshers were sadly unable to bring home championship hardware, and that thought has not left Aidan’s mind in the offseason. “Being just a couple of pitches away from winning the whole thing just makes you want it that much more the next year,” said Aidan of the championship disappointment. “I’m really looking forward to getting back to the playoffs this year.”

He stayed home in the offseason, training with his brother at a local private facility in addition to some mini camps held by the Phillies at the Carpenter Complex. Both

continue to work towards their goal of making the major leagues and fulfilling their childhood dreams.

With the 2024 season upon us, Aidan is eagerly awaiting his first full season in professional baseball, and his brother Jackson is hopeful to stay healthy, playing in injury-shortened seasons since he came into the minor leagues in 2021. While climbing the minor league ladder is a short-term goal for both Miller brothers, the thought of playing against one another in the majors is certainly not lost. “That’s the ultimate goal, I think, when we’re both in the MLB on the same field together playing against each other,” Aidan said of his long-term goal. “That’ll be when we both realize that we made it.”

A fellow Phillie, Aaron Nola, is among a handful of current players going head-to-head against his sibling in the majors that Aidan hopes to emulate, but he knows that possibility is further down the road. Right now, he is ready to make an impact in the minor leagues and continue to prove how much value the Phillies got with their late-first-round pick.





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# THRESHERS TIMES



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**CATCHING  
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**SAMUEL  
ALDEGHERI**

## **Forza Fastballs**

*How Samuel Aldegheri Became One of the Phillies'  
Top Pitching Prospects*

By Josh Sperber



Baseball has evolved from America's National Pastime to a worldwide game. There have been talented prospects rising through the ranks hailing from across the Americas for decades now, but the 2023 World Baseball Classic was a prime example of how far the game has spread. The Philadelphia Phillies are at the forefront of this international baseball boom, with one-third of their top-30 prospects on MLB.com from five countries outside the United States.

One of those countries is Italy, who burst onto the international baseball scene in the WBC after pulling off upsets against the favored Netherlands and Cuban squads before losing in elimination play to the eventual champions in Japan. Though he wasn't on the national team last year, Italian left-hander Samuel Aldegheri is living proof of the worldwide growth of baseball, and a budding international star in the Phillies organization.



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Though it was hard to watch baseball games in Italy when Samuel was growing up, baseball has been a part of the Italian sporting culture for many years. So, Sam's career began the same way many other ballplayers began their foray into baseball; in his backyard. His older brother, Mattia, got into the game before Sam.

By the time Sam was four years old, he couldn't be kept out of the backyard, and constantly began throwing and playing catch with his brother. Samuel looked up to his older brother as a child and became a pitcher because Mattia is a pitcher too. Mattia, a right-handed starter, has played professionally in Italy as a fixture of the Parmaclima rotation since he began at the top level in 2019.

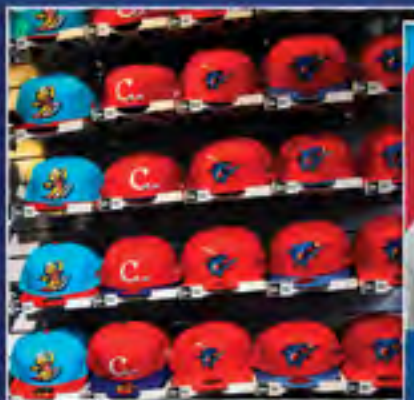
Like many other European Sports, the Italian Baseball League has multiple tiers. In fact, the highest league is called the Serie A1, similar in name to Serie A Italian Soccer League. There are also two lower levels in Italian Baseball, forming the Italian Minor Leagues for younger prospects. That is where Samuel Aldegheri began his career, spending two seasons in each of the two lower levels as a teenager before his promotion to Serie A1 Parmaclima in 2020.

As he had already signed with the Phillies by 2020, Aldegheri only played a few months in Serie A1 before he came to America with Big League Dreams on his mind. "I always wanted to be a big leaguer since I started to play baseball," Sam said of his early years in the game. "When I was 15, the first scout came up





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and started talking to me. After that conversation, I realized that I had a shot to go pro.”

Despite limited interaction with American professional baseball, the crafty lefty was quickly noticed as a rising star among the ranks of Italian baseball players, showcasing a variety of pitches with exceptional command at an early age. After finishing high school at 17 years old, Aldegheri signed his first professional contract with the Phillies and began the next step of his career in the United States.

Although there are many Italian Americans who have turned pro and made it to the big leagues, that list is smaller when it is limited to Italian-Born professional baseball players. Names like Mike Piazza and Joe DiMaggio come to mind when thinking of pros with Italian Heritage, but only seven players have made it to the show straight from Italy.

Furthermore, there has not been an Italian pitcher in a MLB game for over 70 years. According to the Baseball Almanac, former infielder Alex Liddi was the last Italian-Born player to make the jump to the Bigs, spending parts of three seasons with the Mariners between 2011 and 2013. Aldegheri would be the first Verona native to make the jump, but the path to the major leagues is never easy.

Like many international prospects, Aldegheri had to get past the language barrier upon his arrival at Phillies camp in 2021. He was already bilingual, with Spanish as his second language, and initially struggled to connect with his teammates while learning English in his first professional season in the United States.



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Additionally, the Phillies have analytics that Sam had never seen while playing in Italy. “They have some technology that I didn’t even know about,” said Aldegheri of the technological differences. “I had never heard of trackman or spin rate, that’s not something we really have in Italy, so there was a lot of stuff that was completely new [to me].” Despite adjusting to the new city, new country, and new environment that was US professional baseball, Aldegheri adapted quickly, improving his large pitch arsenal to help post a career ERA of 3.62 with a 5-2 record in his first three minor league seasons.

Some barriers are easier to overcome than others, and injuries may be the toughest to tackle. Unfortunately, Aldegheri experienced his share of injuries over his first two seasons as a minor leaguer, pitching in just 16 games between the Threshers and FCL Phillies in his first two seasons. It got to the point where Sam was frustrated enough with the adjustment and injuries that he thought about returning to Italy during an injury-riddled 2022 campaign.

Remaining close with his family despite an eight-hour time difference, he sought support counsel from his parents while recovering. “You have this opportunity now; you know that if you come back home then it’s over for you.” Aldegheri’s parents reminded him when he thought about quitting. “You can play, but it’ll just be in Italy. You won’t be able to follow your dream [of playing in the majors] again.” The blunt advice helped remind Sam why he came to America in the first place and helped convince him to stay strong and continue to work towards his big-league dreams. He finished the 2022 season with an ERA under 2.00 in limited action, poised for a bounce back year.

By 2023, Aldegheri was not only healthy, but came into camp more confident in his English, basically fluent in a third language and set for a full season of ball. He broke camp with the Threshers, around a strong group of talented, young and hungry players. “As soon as Spring Training was over, we knew we had a really great team,” Sam said of last year’s Threshers roster. “It’s not just about the quality of players, we were really close to each other... We weren’t just playing, we were having a lot of fun.” Players and coaches alike were raving about the quality of the new squad, with an experienced coaching staff that connected well with the players from the start.

Aldegheri was named the starter for the Threshers second game of the season following a 3-2 road loss to start the year. It was his first start since 2022, and first Single-A appearance since his first year as a pro in 2021. Though he appeared as a starter in less than half of his first 16 professional appearances, Sam was ready to make an impact from the get-go. “I remember before the game I was just thinking about going back on the mound and dominating.” Saying he dominated may be an understatement, as he struck out 7 of the 12 batters he faced in 4.0 perfect innings.



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# THRESHERS TIMES



That game set the tone for an incredible Threshers season, ending in a combined no-hitter (Clearwater's first in three years) and a shutout win. With Aldegheri entrenched as a leader in the starting rotation, Clearwater ran away with the first half championship, becoming the first team in Minor League Baseball to clinch a playoff spot as part of a 22-win turnaround and finishing the regular season with one of the best records in all of MiLB.

Sam was instrumental in Clearwater's success, starting 15 games and earning a win in his lone relief appearance before being called up to High-A Jersey Shore in early August. After setting up the Threshers for a postseason run, he helped the BlueClaws jump from third place to the South Atlantic League second-half champs, finishing with the best record in the SAL before falling in round one of the playoffs. Postseason disappointments aside, it was certainly a successful year for Aldegheri and the Phillies farm system.

Being healthy helped Aldegheri regain his confidence and his love for the game of baseball, as well as posting career highs across the board in his first full season as a pro. Sam begins 2024 at just 22 years old and the highest ranked Phillies lefty pitching prospect according to MLB.com. However, he knows that early success is not enough to reach his goal of making the majors. "Mentally and physically, I knew my body better, I knew my mind better," Aldegheri said of his 2023 success. "Now I know that I just have to go out on the mound and have fun. That's all that matters."

Watching him play, it's easy to tell how much Sam enjoys being on the mound and playing baseball. It is also easy to tell that he has a lot of talent and potential as he continues his young career. An expansive arsenal of pitches will certainly make his career fun to watch as Samuel Aldegheri continues to work towards his goal of making the major leagues.

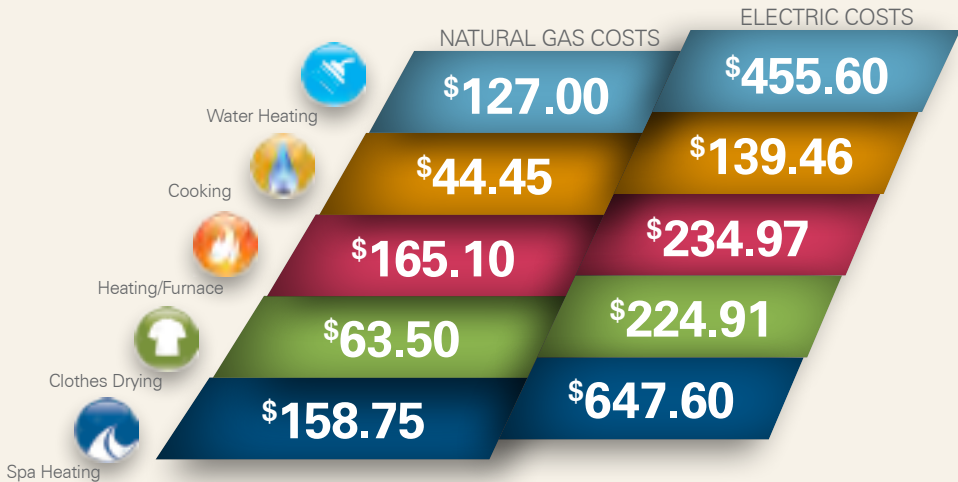




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**CATCHING  
UP WITH**



**KENDALL  
SIMMONS**

**Powering Through**  
*The Successes and Struggles of one of the  
Phillies' Longest-Tenured Prospects*

By Josh Sperber



What is it like to be a top prospect? A select group of student-athletes at the high school and collegiate level begin their adult lives with the eyes of thousands of fans focused on them to see how good they can become. Especially with highlights from across the country blanketing social media, it is hard for many elite young athletes to stay out of the spotlight. The journey to the pros in any sport is a long and winding one, and just because someone's path to becoming a professional athlete is well-chronicled does not mean that their journey will be a quick one.

From the prospects who rapidly ascend to the biggest stages to the guys that suffer setbacks and adversity on their road to the show, there is no shortage of remarkable stories when it comes to baseball prospects. Phillies infield prospect Kendall Simmons is a prime example of a player who has seen it all on his current path from a star minor league prospect to his goal of making it to the show.

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No matter the sport, the state of Georgia has been home to some of the best high school teams and players in the country. Whether it is basketball, football or baseball, multiple schools from Georgia are routinely featured in top High School rankings on websites like MaxPreps. While Kendall Simmons' high school, Tattnall Square High School in Macon, Georgia, may not always be atop these rankings, it is certainly in an area rich with a strong athletic tradition.

Kendall himself was a multi-sport star, excelling in basketball, football and baseball while growing up. "If you told me as a kid what I was going to play [professionally], I would have said football," said Simmons about the beginnings of his athletic

career. Though baseball may not always have been his first-choice sport, it was clear that his baseball skills shined the brightest of the three sports he played. A versatile athlete who can play shortstop, second and third base, Simmons was advised to focus on baseball during his first year of high school after he was ranked as the top shortstop in his class.

Kendall's high school baseball career progressed quickly, catching the attention of many collegiate and professional scouts while leading his team to success against tough competition. Many of the players he played with and against during his formative years have already made their major league debuts, including Will Benson





# Surfside

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(Reds), Xzavion Curry (Guardians), and Daz Cameron (son of three-time Gold Glove centerfielder Mike Cameron).

He was even able to train with new Padres Ace Dylan Cease and other Georgian pros during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020. “Whether guys go through things when they get to the big leagues or in the minors, the journey is different for everyone. To pick those guys’ brains and learn each individual journey is pretty awesome.” On the field, Simmons retains his competitive edge no matter the competition, but through it all he doesn’t forget his roots and continues to support the friends he has made along the way.

Towards the end of his high school career, Simmons was on draft boards for multiple major league teams and heavily recruited by Division One colleges. He ended up committing to ACC powerhouse Georgia Tech, led by Danny Hall. Hall began 2024 as the winningest active manager in the NCAA and was approaching the 1,000-career win mark when he recruited Kendall. Having played with Hall’s son growing up, it seemed like a no-brainer for Simmons until the MLB Draft came around.

Selected by the Phillies in the sixth round of the 2018 draft, Simmons now faced a difficult decision of staying home and playing for an elite collegiate program or turning pro out of high school. Though many people focus on the six-figure bonus awarded to most

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draft picks, which is typically larger for high school players who need to be persuaded out of a collegiate commitment, Kendall had his mind on the bigger picture. “I didn’t want to give my all to baseball and have my schoolwork struggle or vice versa,” Kendall said of his decision. With the support of Coach Hall, Simmons elected to sign with Philadelphia and begin his professional career at 18 years old.

Jumping levels in any profession, particularly in sports, is never easy. Athletes who were once considered top prospects in high school can experience a sharp change in status when they join the minor leagues with the other top prospects worldwide.

After beginning his career in the FCL, Simmons steadily rose through the Phillies system, jumping up at least one level of the ladder in almost every season since he was drafted. With 15 home runs and 45 RBIs in his first two seasons in rookie ball, Simmons started to hit roadblocks with injuries after the pandemic as he advanced to the full-season level.

The injuries unfortunately began to intensify after he was selected by the Phillies to play winter ball with the

Adelaide Giants of the Australian Baseball League in 2020. “I got injured before I went out [to Adelaide] the first time, and I went there with unrealistic expectations,” Simmons said of his first winter down under. “When I got done in 2020, I said I never would go back because it was the first time I truly failed.”

He explained that he came back from injury expecting to go to Adelaide and immediately dominate the competition. As a young top prospect in a budding baseball country, he called his attitude selfish when he was in Australia the first time and knew he needed to make a change.

Unfortunately, injuries persisted after Adelaide, keeping him between Clearwater and High-A Jersey Shore in each of the last three minor league seasons. But this past 2023 season proved to be a turning point in Kendall’s young career. Kendall’s debut last season was delayed to a rehab appearance with the Threshers at the end of an April series against the Tampa Tarpons, the first of 13-straight wins in an historic season.

That win streak not only distanced the Threshers from the rest of the Florida State League en route to a dominant first-half championship, but inspired Kendall and the rest of his teammates in Jersey Shore to go on a run of their own in the second half. “It made us hungry in Jersey [Shore] after the Threshers won so early,” Simmons said. “We all thought ‘I want to do that! We want to win!’ We were definitely motivated by the Threshers last year.”





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Simmons' impressive numbers helped boost the BlueClaws from the middle of the pack in the first half to the top of the heap, finishing the second half with a South Atlantic League North Division Championship and the top overall record in the league. Furthermore, he was selected as one of just six Phillies prospects to join the Adelaide Giants and set himself up for redemption.

Though Simmons had played for the Giants just three years prior, the 2023-24 ABL campaign was new territory for the infield star. He said he would never go back after a tough 2020 season, but he had a new outlook when he was chosen to return in the fall of last year. "I knew this was something I needed to do, I needed to go back, and I said that I would not leave [Australia] as a loser." He joined an Adelaide team that was fresh off a 2022-23 season that culminated with a championship series win, ending a 43-year drought pre-dating the modern era of the ABL.

After a successful regular season that earned the Giants the top seed in the playoffs, they were ready to run it back in 2024. Simmons was a key part of that success, slashing .276/.315/.460 and doubling his run and power production compared to his previous stint as a Giant. Adelaide returned to the championship series, setting up a rematch of the 2022-23 championship series against the Perth Heat, a team that Simmons jokingly said almost ended his career.

Led by Phillies minor league coach and Adelaide Manager Chris "Tank" Adamson and a litany of Phillies prospects, Simmons and the Giants overcame a 13-inning game one loss to take the final two games in the best-of-three series to clinch back-to-back championships. In addition to completing his redemption tour with the sweet taste of champagne and victory, the success he has had so far in 2024 has set Simmons up for great success in the upcoming season.

He played multiple Spring Training games with the Phillies, reaching base in almost half of his plate appearances through his first six games. Any issues he had with his mentality or attitude have been buried in his past this year. "Playing in Spring Training felt different from when I was younger," Kendall said of returning to Phillies Spring Training. "Back then I thought 'oh this is so real,' now I know it's not so far away. I'm at the point in my career that there are not many things separating me from the big-league guys."

Now healthy, older, wiser and more experienced, the goal has not changed for Simmons, but his work ethic has continued to improve. Simmons looks to be fully healthy with the 2024 season looming and has seen more action with the Phillies in Spring Training than most other prospects in the organization so far this year. Set to begin his seventh season in professional baseball at 23 years old, Kendall Simmons knows that he is still just at the start of his journey.

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# THRESHERS TIMES



## Threshers Silver Sharks

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

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

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- Subscription to the Threshers' email newsletter to stay up-to-date on all club and team events

### 2024 Silver Sharks Schedule

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

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# THRESHERS TIMES



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

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## Lil' Anglers Kids Club Thursdays

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