



GAMEDAY

APRIL 2024

LETTER FROM THE TEAM

Hey Fans!

Welcome into another season of Lynchburg Hillcats baseball! We're excited to have you back at the ballpark again after a long, warmer-than-normal winter.

This season, we're celebrating 30 years of Hillcats baseball here in the Hill City. It's hard to believe that we've been around that long with this name. Though our logos and color schemes have changed, our name, and mission have always remained the same. As we reflect back on the past 30 years, we will also look forward to the next 30 as well.

We have tons of awesome giveaways, promotions, theme nights, and great baseball games ahead. Did we mention we're going to have a Shane Bieber Bobblehead night? If not, there is your advanced notice! Much like always, we will have Saturday night fireworks, Sunday's for the kids, and plenty of other events to keep the ballpark busy.

It's been a great 30 years, but we're ready for more! So welcome in, grab a seat, eat a hot dog, and enjoy the ride, because we have a long season of baseball... starting now!

Sincerely,
The Lynchburg Hillcats



CLARIK



HILLCATS ANNOUNCE COACHING STAFF

The Lynchburg Hillcats in conjunction with the Cleveland Guardians are pleased to announce their coaching staff for the 2024 season.

For the second straight season, Jordan Smith will serve as the manager for the ballclub with Tony Arnold returning as pitching coach. Cole Nieto will step in as the hitting coach and Erlin Cerda will be the bench coach. Rounding out the coaching staff are Yuka Ogata as the athletic trainer and Jack Baldwin as the strength and conditioning coach.

Smith served at the helm during the 2023 season, his first as a full-season manager. He led the team to a 67-63 record, while also finishing the second half of the season six games above .500.

“We are excited to welcome Jordan Smith and his family back to Lynchburg for a second season with the Hillcats,” General Manager Matt Ramstead said. “The Smith’s have been a great representation of what the organization stands for. Jordan has done an excellent job of connecting with the players and our fans alike.”

“We look forward to having Jordan, his wife Ashley, and their two kids back in the ballpark this Spring.”

Smith’s coaching experience extends from the conclusion of his playing career, of which he spent its entirety in the Cleveland Indians organization. He began coaching in 2019 as the bench coach of the Lake County Captains and would return to that role in 2021.

For the second straight season and fifth time in his career, Tony Arnold will serve as the pitching coach with the Lynchburg Hillcats. This will also be the third straight season that Arnold has worked alongside Smith. Arnold, a former professional with the Baltimore Orioles organization has been coaching in minor league baseball since 1990.

Arnold spent the entirety of his playing career with the Orioles, making the majors in both 1986 and 1987. He would post an ERA of 5.08 in his 38 appearances.

Cole Nieto is a Cleveland-native who spent his collegiate career at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio. He was a pure hitter in college, posting a .312 AVG and a SLG of over .900 in his two seasons with the Yellow Jackets. Following his playing career, Nieto would go on to serve as an assistant coach at the University of Dubuque in Iowa.

Nieto spent last season as the hitting coach with the Guardians Dominican Summer League Blue Squad. This will be his first year of full-season Minor League Baseball.

Erlin Cerda returns to Lynchburg as the bench coach after spending a portion of his playing career in the Hill City. Cerda, a native of the Dominican Republic, played a total of 32 games with the Hillcats during the 2018 season. He spent a total of six seasons in the Guardians organization as a player, totaling an average of .252 with an impressive 12 triples.

Cerda spent last season as the bench coach with the Guardians Arizona Complex League affiliate alongside former Lynchburg hitting coach, Craig Massoni.

Also new to the staff this year is Yuka Ogata, who will function as the teams athletic trainer. Last season, they spent time with the Lake County Captains as their athletic trainer.

Ogata graduated from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan in 2018 before completing their master's degree in Athletic Training from the University of Arkansas.

Rounding out the coaching staff is Jack Baldwin, who will serve as the strength and conditioning coach. This will be Baldwin's first season with the Guardians organization.

The 2024 season is set to begin on April 5th with a trip to North Carolina to take on the Down East Wood Ducks. The Hillcats home opener is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th against the Fredericksburg Nationals. Tickets are available at Lynchburg-hillcats.com.



THARP

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PREVIEWING THE 2024 ROSTER

The Lynchburg Hillcats in conjunction with the Cleveland Guardians have announced their Opening Day roster for the 2024 season.

The roster features six players within the Guardians Top 30 list according to MLB Pipeline. In addition, three of which land in the top ten.

The list of players in the top 30 include Ralphy Velazquez, Jaison Chourio, Alex Clemmey, Angel Genao, Jackson Humphries, and Rafael Ramirez Jr.

Velazquez, currently ranked 5th in the organization, comes in as one of the highest touted prospects to start their career in Lynchburg since the Guardians took over. He was the Guardians first round pick (pick 23) in the 2023 MLB Draft and spent the remainder of last season in the Arizona Complex League.

While in the ACL, Velazquez hit .348 with two home runs and eight RBI's. He also finished the year with a 1.132 OPS. Only 19-years-old, Velazquez will focus on transitioning from catcher to first base.

Chourio (ranked 6th) will be returning for his first full season in Lynchburg. He served as a mid-season call-up last year where he struggled at the plate in nine games. However, in his professional career, he has slashed .304/.446/.411.





He is the brother of Jackson Chourio, the Milwaukee Brewers top prospect and the second ranked in all of baseball. His brother, several years older, is slated to make his Major League debut this season. Jaison, a natural outfielder, added significant muscle this past off-season to improve his power numbers.

Alex Clemmey is the highest ranked pitcher on the Hillcats this season (9th). The New England native boasts one of the best fastballs in Minor League Baseball, and an equally impressive curveball. His 70-grade fastball tops out at 99 MPH which he partners with a 60-grade curveball and 50-grade slider.

Clemmey was drafted in the second round of the 2023 MLB Draft and is slated to make his professional debut this season. MLB Pipeline lists him as a potential frontline starter.

Angel Genao returns for a second full season in Lynchburg. He was originally called up mid-season in 2022 before spending all of last year in the Hill City. Genao, ranked 12th according to MLB Pipeline, was a versatile infielder who excelled at the plate while growing into a defensive menace.

Genao missed the first few months of last season due to a knee injury. At only 19-years-old, he shows plenty of upside to be a staple in the Hillcats lineup this season.

Jackson Humphries is the second highly graded pitcher on the staff this season. At 19-years-old, Humphries slots in at 14th in the top prospects list. His fastball, curveball, and slider all rate as plus pitches (55-grade) and improved command helped him succeed last season.

He spent most of last season in Arizona but did make six starts for the Hillcats a year ago. The left-hander finished the season in Lynchburg 0-1 with a 5.32 ERA and 24 strikeouts.

The final member of the Guardians Top 30 list is Rafael Ramirez Jr. (24th). Ramirez, the son of a former all-star shortstop by the same name, is arguably the most physical of the infielders in the Guardians system. According to MLB Pipeline, he plays roughly 15-pounds above his listed weight and has the power to slug for 15-20 home runs a season.

Last season in the ACL, Ramirez showed discipline at the plate, finishing second in walks (50) and seventh in on-base percentage (.453). The 18-year-old was born in New Jersey but grew up in the Dominican Republic.

Beyond the Top 30 list, Lynchburg boasts a strong number of returning players from last season. Of the 29-man roster, 17 players spent time in a Hillcats uniform a year ago. A few notable returners include Manuel Mejias, Juan Benjamin, Wuilfredo Antunez, Yorman Gomez, Alonzo Richardson, Jack Jasiak, and Wardquelin Vasquez.

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue collared shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

REMEMBERING DAVE ELMORE

Remembering the Legacy of David Elmore: A Visionary and Inspirational Leader

Palm Desert, CA - It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of David Elmore, a visionary entrepreneur, and a cherished member of the professional sports community. Dave leaves behind an immense void in the world of business, philanthropy, the Olympics, and his profound impact on professional baseball and hockey. He will be remembered not only for his remarkable achievements, but also for his unwavering commitment to these sports and their global significance.

Dave Elmore created the Elmore Sports Group, a conglomerate of Minor League Baseball teams, professional hockey clubs, facility, concessions and special event management companies.

David Elmore's passion for professional baseball was exemplified through his ownership of numerous minor league teams across the country. His entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to sports transformed communities and brought the joy of baseball and hockey to fans of all ages.

As the founder and owner of several minor league baseball teams, including the Eugene Emeralds, Colorado Springs Sky Sox, Rocky Mountain Vibes, Inland Empire 66ers, Amarillo Sod Poodles, San Antonio Missions, Idaho Falls Chukars and Lynchburg Hillcats, David Elmore established a lasting legacy in the world of sports. Through these teams, he created opportunities for aspiring players, entertained countless fans, and contributed to the growth and development of the sport. He was inducted into the Pacific Coast League and Texas League Halls of Fame and was recognized as King of Baseball in 2016.

Beyond his involvement in professional baseball, David Elmore's visionary leadership extended to various sports ventures. Dave Elmore had a passion for hockey, owning the Utah Grizzlies and the Idaho Falls Spud Kings. Dave along with his wife, Donna Tuttle, moved the Grizzlies from Denver to Utah, and aided West Valley City in the development of the Maverik Center in Salt Lake City, a state-of-the-art sports and entertainment arena which hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics. This multi-purpose facility became a hub for sporting events, concerts, and community gatherings, providing an unforgettable experience for attendees and contributing to the local economy.

As we mourn the loss of David Elmore, let us also celebrate his profound contributions to professional baseball, the sports industry, and the Olympic movement. His visionary leadership, unwavering commitment, and entrepreneurial spirit have left an indelible mark, igniting the passion for sports in communities and fostering a legacy of excellence and inclusivity.

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LIVE

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home



HILLCATS REVAMP FAN FEST

In the past, Fan Fest at Bank of the James Stadium was more of an open house for the community to see the ballpark and experience any new activities and attractions.

This season, the Hillcats revamped their idea of Fan Fest by hosting fans for an open practice with the team. Fans were treated to a live showcase of the talent on the roster this year. The team participated in a simulated game while rotating through most of the pitchers while also allowing every hitter to step to the plate.

In addition to the simulated game, fans were also treated to a wide array of concessions options, including a new menu item: Rascal Bites. The story behind the Rascal Bites began on X when the Hudson Valley Renegades ranked Lynchburg as having one of the worst logos in Minor League Baseball. The Hillcats social team took offense and began beef with the Renegades.

Upon learning that the mascot of Hudson Valley was a racoon named Rascal, DJ Rawls came up with the idea to introduce Rascal Bites to the concessions menu, further building the rivalry. Rascal Bites will be available all season long.

On top of concessions, kids had the opportunity to use the bouncy house and get a sneak peak at the Kid's Fun Zone. To culminate the evening, the entire team spent time signing autographs for fans at the end of the scrimmage before returning to the locker room.

The team appeared to love having fans around and showed an embrace towards the Lynchburg community that had been unachievable at previous Fan Fests.



HILLCATS ANNOUNCE

2024 PROMOTIONAL

SCHEDULE

The Lynchburg Hillcats are excited to announce their full promotional schedule for the 2024 season.

This season, the schedule boasts four specialty jerseys, six Limonadas themed nights, 11 fireworks shows, and 12 total giveaways.

Returning this season are a few of our crowd favorites including Autism Awareness Night (May 18th), Margaritaville Night (July 13th), and First Responder's Appreciation Night (August 3rd). The Hillcats are also excited to announce a full slate of new theme and promotional nights.

April will be jam packed, kicking off with our Opening Day Extravaganza (April 9th) and a 30th Anniversary Season T-Shirt giveaway (April 13th) during the first series of the season. The following home-stand will feature a special family-friendly series with Little Hillcats Night with a Youth Designed T-Shirt giveaway (April 26th) and Youth League Night (April 27th).

May will feature our first Limonadas themed weekend with a giveaway of a mason jar (May 3rd) with Noche de Fuegos (May 4th) and Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) wrapping up the weekend. Later in the month, the team will focus on causes that matter to the organization with Mental Health Night, featuring a shirtsy giveaway (May 17th) and Autism Awareness Night.

Towards the end of May, the Hillcats are excited to bring back beer pitchers for one night only (May 30th) followed by a throwback jersey giveaway on May 31st. That series will also feature "What Could've Been Night?" (June 1st) where we look back on moments that could've happened over the last 30 years.

With only one series in June, the Hillcats have made it worthwhile, featuring a Shane Bieber bobblehead giveaway (June 14th). Bieber, a former Cy-Young winner with the Cleveland Guardians, spent part of 2017 with Lynchburg.



July will open up with a two-week homestand featuring our Independence Day Celebration (July 4th) and a patriotic cap giveaway (July 5th). The next week, the Hillcats will be giving away Limonadas themed Hawaiian Shirt (July 12th) before hosting the annual Margaritaville Night the following day.

As the calendar turns to August, the team will bring back Military Appreciation Night (August 2nd) with a Military themed shirt giveaway before hosting First Responders Night the following day. In the middle of the month, bring your jeep as the Hillcats will be giving away rubber ducks on Duck a Dash Night (August 16th). Saturday's game will be followed by fireworks and a postgame campout (August 17th).

To close out the season, the Hillcats will celebrate the holiday's that baseball season forgets with Halloween (August 28th) and Christmas (August 30th). Countdown to Christmas will also feature a Southpaw Snow Globe giveaway.

In addition to these promotions and theme nights, the Hillcats are continuing their weekly promotions. This season, those who attend a Tuesday game will receive a free ticket to the following Tuesday game during our Two Fur Tuesday program. Wednesday's throughout the season will feature discounted hot dogs on Weenie Wednesday.

Thursday nights will remain Thirsty Thursday's with Freebie Friday hosting a different giveaway each week. On Saturday, the Hillcats will continue their tradition of fireworks before wrapping up the series on Sunday's with Kid's Fun Day's.

LYNCHBURG HILLCATS
2024
PROMO CALENDAR

- 4** Specialty Jerseys 
- 6** Limonadas Nights 
- 11** Fireworks Shows 
- 12** Giveaways

27 Theme Nights

LYNCHBURG-HILLCATS.COM



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Monday - Friday 8 a.m - 7 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m - 5 p.m.

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2024 WEEKLY PROMOS

20
ADMIT ONE
TUESDAY GAME
TWO-FUR TUESDAY
FREE TICKET TO NEXT TUE GAME
GIVEAWAYS

20
WEENIE WEDNESDAY
HOT DOG DISCOUNTS
FIREWORKS

20
THIRSTY THURSDAY
BEVERAGE DISCOUNTS
KIDS EAT FREE
POSTGAME BASERUNNING

20
FREEBIE FRIDAY

30
SPARKLING SATURDAY

30
SNO-COME SUNDAY
SUNDAY FUNDAY

Weekly Promos



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***NEW SURVEY SHOWS HILLCATS AS ONE OF
THE BEST BARGAINS IN BASEBALL***

According to a new report released by Minor League Baseball, the Lynchburg Hillcats find themselves as one of the cheapest, fan-friendly options in all of the country.

The report, titled the 2023 Fan Cost Survey published by Minor League Baseball, calculated the average cost of attending a normal game for a family of four. The survey used a formula of two adult tickets, two child tickets, two beers, two sodas, four hot dogs, and parking to calculate what a family could expect to spend when attending the game.

Based on the results, Lynchburg found themselves as one of the cheapest options in all of baseball at an average of \$73.50 for a family of four to attend a game. For comparison, the average across all of MiLB was slightly over \$91. That means, it is nearly \$20 less expensive to attend a game at Bank of the James Stadium than elsewhere in the country.

When compared to the other teams in the Carolina League, the Hillcats still found themselves to be the cheapest and most affordable option.

The Hillcats are proud of the results of the survey, as we strive to provide the best experience for our fans at the cheapest price possible. We look forward to bringing affordable, family fun to our community for years to come.



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SOUTHPAW'S KIDS CLUB



APRIL 12



30TH ANNIVERSARY NIGHT

*SHOW THIS CARD AT THE BOX OFFICE ON THE DAY OF THE GAME FOR A FREE GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET!

MAY 2



\$5 MARGARITA NIGHT

JULY 13



MARGARITAVILLE NIGHT

JUNE 13



CHEERS TO SUMMER

AUG 16



DUCK A DASH NIGHT

APRIL 26



LITTLE HILLCATS NIGHT

JUNE 2



SOUTHPAWS BIRTHDAY PARTY

JULY 1



MARVEL MONDAY

*SHOW THIS CARD AT THE BOX OFFICE ON THE DAY OF THE GAME FOR A FREE GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET!

AUG 1



AVIATION & AEROSPACE NIGHT

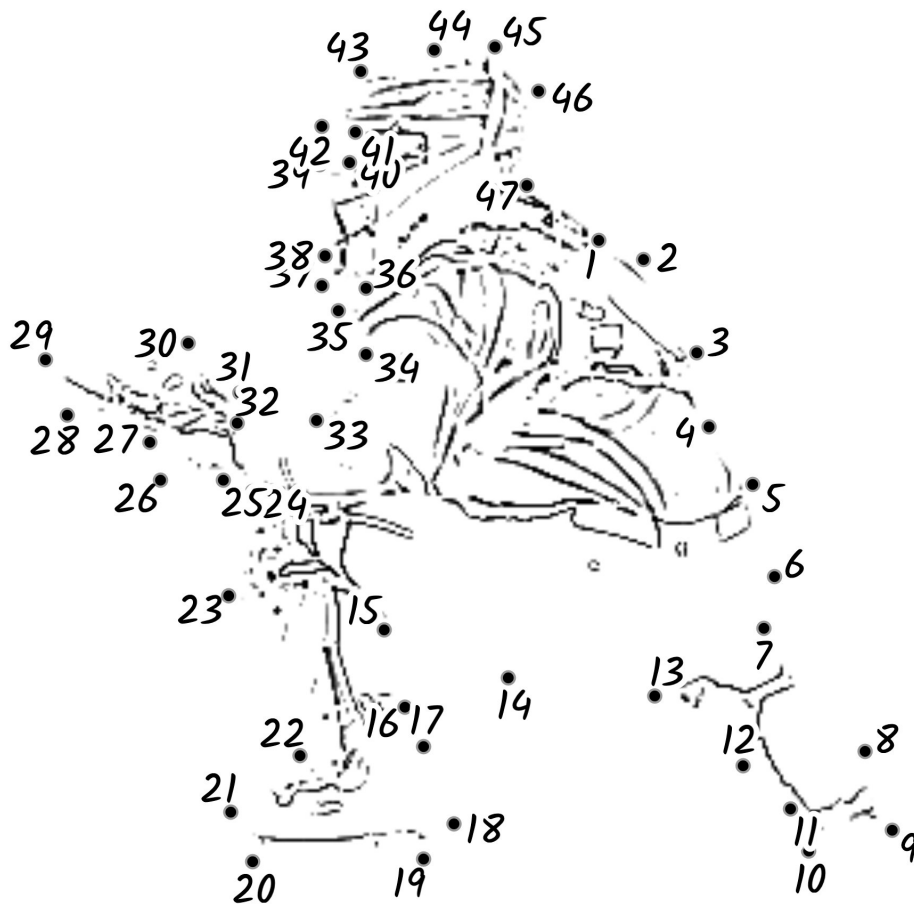
AUG 28



HALLOWEEN AT THE BALLPARK



SOUTHPAW'S FUN ZONE



Limonadas

DE HILL CITY

