

# GUIDE RAIL

JULY 20-25



**FLO'S RIDE UP**  
**OUTFIELDER ESTEVAN FLORIAL**  
**MAKING HIS WAY TO NY FOR GOOD**

OFFICIAL GAMEDAY PROGRAM OF THE SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS

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# SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS

## 2021 SCHEDULE



### MAY

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

### JULY

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

### SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 BUF 7:05P	2 BUF 7:05P	3 BUF 7:05P	4 BUF 6:05P
5 BUF 1:05P	6	7 ROC 7:05P	8 ROC 7:05P	9 ROC 7:05P	10 ROC 7:05P	11 ROC 6:05P
12 ROC 1:05P	13	14 @LHV 7:05P	15 @LHV 7:05P	16 @LHV 7:05P	17 @LHV 7:05P	18 @LHV 6:35P
19 @LHV 1:35P	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### JUNE

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

### AUGUST

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

### 2021 Triple-A Northeast Opponents

BUF  
TRN

Buffalo Bisons  
Trenton Thunder (Toronto Blue Jays)

LHV

Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Philadelphia Phillies)

ROC

Rochester Red Wings (Washington Nationals)

SYR

Syracuse Mets (New York Mets)

WOR

Worcester Red Sox (Boston Red Sox)

# DON'T MISS IT!

# 2021 GUIDERAIL

*Volume Eight- Issue Six*

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<b>Flo's Ride Up: Florial's journey to SWB &amp; NY</b>	<b>22-25</b>



Outfielder Estevan Florial signed as a non-drafted free agent in 2015, made his Major League debut in 2020 and his Triple-A debut this year. His journey to the top hasn't been conventional and has also seen setbacks due to injuries.

Read more about his time in the Yankees organization on page 22.

<b>Rounding the Bases SWB's basepath romp</b>	<b>28-29</b>
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## EXECUTIVE STAFF:

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Katie Beekman ..... General Manager

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Joe Vasile ..... Media Relations Manager/Broadcaster

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Jordan Maydole ..... Director of Community Relations

## CORPORATE SERVICES:

Kristina Knight ..... Senior Director, Corporate Services & Design

## FINANCE & ACCOUNTING:

Patrick Cawley ..... Staff Accountant

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Brendan Bauer ..... Video Production Coordinator

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Nick Bolka ..... Stadium Operations Manager  
Steve Horne ..... Director of Field Operations  
Dustin Spiegel ..... Assistant Groundskeeper

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Kelly Cusick ..... Director of Season Ticket Sales & Service  
Kyle Davis ..... Account Executive, Season Ticket Sales  
Michael Harvey ..... Director of Group Sales  
Michael Didato ..... Account Executive, Group Sales  
Robby Judge ..... Director of Youth Baseball & Sports Sales  
Tim Duggan ..... Premium Sales Manager  
Sean Allison ..... Account Executive, Premium Sales  
Mike Phipps ..... Account Executive, Premium Sales

# RAILRIDERS APPAREL



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& NEW YORK YANKEES ITEMS





## MANAGER DOUG DAVIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



### DOUG DAVIS - MINOR LEAGUE MANAGERIAL RECORD

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



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## DUSTIN GLANT- PITCHING COACH

**Born:** July 20, 1981

**Resides:** Tampa, FL

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



## CASEY DYKES- HITTING COACH

**Born:** January 27, 1990

**Resides:** Wesley Chapel, FL

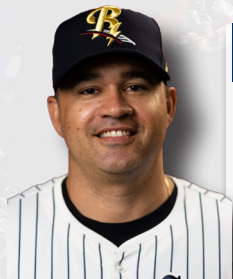
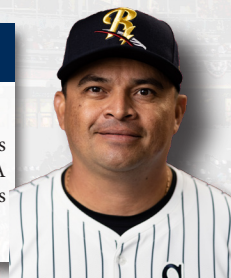
Dykes joined the Yankees organization last year after spending 2019 with Indiana University as their hitting coach. Prior to his time with Indiana, Dykes was the hitting coach and recruiting coordinator at Virginia Military Institute (2015-18) and spent two seasons as an assistant at his alma mater,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

## RAUL DOMINIGUEZ- COACH

**Born:** July 25, 1980

**Resides:** Panama City, Panama

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



## CAONABO COSME- COACH

**Born:** March 18, 1979

**Resides:** La Vega, Dominican Republic

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



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## 1- ANDREW VELAZQUEZ INF

Height: 5-8 Weight: 170 Bats: Switch Throws: Right  
 Born: July 14, 1994 in Bronx, NY  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 23, 2020

### 2020 TOTALS

AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	E
.159	40	63	11	10	1	1	0	3	10	23	4	2	.274	0

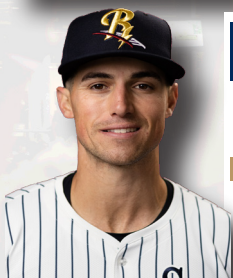


## 2- BRADEN BRISTO RHP

Height: 6-0 Weight: 180 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: November 1, 1994 in West Monroe, LA  
 Acquired: Selected in the 23<sup>rd</sup> round of the 2016 Draft from Louisiana Tech University

### 2020 TOTALS

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

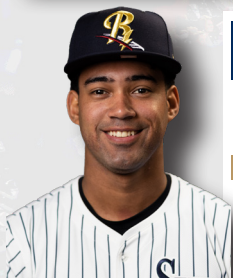


## 3- ARMANDO ALVAREZ INF

Height: 6-1 Weight: 205 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: July 14, 1994 in Miami, FL  
 Acquired: Selected in the 17<sup>th</sup> round of the 2016 Draft from Eastern Kentucky University

### 2020 TOTALS

AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	E
<i>Did Not Play</i>														



## 6- DEIVI GARCÍA RHP

Height: 5-9 Weight: 163 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: May 19, 1999 in Bonao, Dominican Republic  
 Acquired: Signed as a Non-Drafted Free Agent on July 2, 2015

### 2020 TOTALS

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

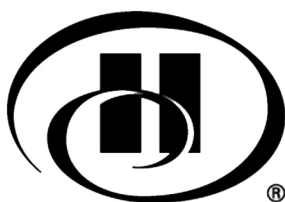


## 7- SOCRATES BRITO OF

Height: 6-2 Weight: 205 Bats: Left Throws: Left  
 Born: September 6, 1992 in Azua, Dominican Republic  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 31, 2020

### 2020 TOTALS

AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	E
<i>Did Not Play</i>														



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# 2021 RAILRIDERS ROSTER



## 8- KYLE HOLDER INF

Height: 6-1 Weight: 204 Bats: Left Throws: Right  
 Born: May 25, 1994 in San Diego, CA  
 Acquired: Selected in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the 2015 Draft from University of San Diego

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 10- TREVOR LANE LHP

Height: 5-11 Weight: 185 Bats: Left Throws: Left  
 Born: April 26, 1994 in Redmond, VA  
 Acquired: Selected in the 10<sup>th</sup> round of the 2016 Draft from University of Illinois at Chicago

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 12- FREDERICK CUEVAS OF

Height: 5-11 Weight: 185 Bats: Left Throws: Left  
 Born: October 27, 1997 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
 Acquired: Signed as a Non-Drafted Free Agent on July 2, 2014

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 15- CRISTIAN PÉREZ INF

Height: 5-10 Weight: 170 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: October 26, 1998 in Cagua, Venezuela  
 Acquired: Trade with the Kansas City Royals on December 23, 2019

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 16- BRANDON WAGNER INF

Height: 6-0 Weight: 210 Bats: Left Throws: Right  
 Born: August 24, 1995 in Princeton, NJ  
 Acquired: Selected in the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the 2015 Draft from Howard College (TX)

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 18- MAX MCDOWELL C

Height: 6-1 Weight: 208 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: January 12, 1994 in Pittsburgh, PA  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on June 28, 2020

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 19- THOMAS MILONE OF

Height: 6-0 Weight: 205 Bats: Left Throws: Left  
 Born: January 26, 1995 in Monroe, CT  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 13, 2019

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 20- KELLIN DEGLAN C

Height: 6-2 Weight: 205 Bats: Left Throws: Right  
 Born: May 3, 1992 in Langley, British Columbia, Canada  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 12, 2016

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 22- ADAM WARREN RHP

Height: 6-1 Weight: 225 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: August 25, 1987 in Birmingham, AL  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 18, 2019

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 24- LUIS GIL RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 185 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: June 3, 1998 in Birmingham, AL  
 Acquired: Trade with the Minnesota Twins on March 16, 2018

### 2020 TOTALS

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





## 25- BRIAN KELLER RHP

Height: 6-3      Weight: 190      Bats: Right      Throws: Right  
 Born: June 21, 1994 in Milwaukee, WI  
 Acquired: Selected in the 39<sup>th</sup> round of the 2016 Draft from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

### 2020 TOTALS

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

*Did Not Play*



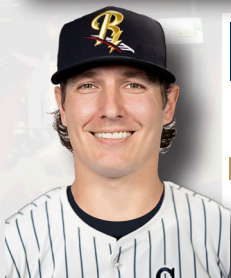
## 28- NICK GREEN RHP

Height: 6-1      Weight: 175      Bats: Right      Throws: Right  
 Born: March 25, 1995 in Fountain, CO  
 Acquired: Trade with the Houston Astros on August 1, 2016

### 2020 TOTALS

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

*Did Not Play*



## 29- ASHER WOJCIECHOWSKI RHP

Height: 6-4      Weight: 235      Bats: Right      Throws: Right  
 Born: December 21, 1988 in Pensacola, FL  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on January 19, 2021

### 2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV IP H R ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG  
 1-3 6.81 10 7 0 37.0 45 29 28 11 15 31 2 .308



## 33- DONNY SANDS C

Height: 6-2      Weight: 190      Bats: Right      Throws: Right  
 Born: May 16, 1996 in Tucson, AZ  
 Acquired: Selected in the 8<sup>th</sup> round of the 2015 Draft from Salpointe Catholic HS (AZ)

### 2020 TOTALS

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

*Did Not Play*



## 34- GLENN OTTO RHP

Height: 6-5      Weight: 240      Bats: Right      Throws: Right  
 Born: March 11, 1996 in Spring, TX  
 Acquired: Selected in the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the 2017 Draft from Rice University

### 2020 TOTALS

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

*Did Not Play*



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# 2021 RAILRIDERS ROSTER



## 35- MATT PITA OF

Height: 5-10      Weight: 175      Bats: Right      Throws: Right  
 Born: April 21, 1997 in Richmond, VA  
 Acquired: Selected in the 12<sup>th</sup> round of the 2018 Draft from VMI

### 2020 TOTALS

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

*Did Not Play*



## 37- MATT KROOK LHP

Height: 6-4      Weight: 225      Bats: Left      Throws: Left  
 Born: October 21, 1994 in Hillsborough, CA  
 Acquired: Selected in the Triple-A Phase of the 2020 Rule 5 Draft

### 2020 TOTALS

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

*Did Not Play*

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## 38- GREG WEISSERT RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 215 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: February 5, 1995 in Bay Shore, NY  
 Acquired: Selected in the 18<sup>th</sup> round of the 2016 Draft from Fordham University

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 39- REGGIE MCCLAIN RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 180 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: November 16, 1992 in Duluth, GA  
 Acquired: Selected in the Triple-A Phase of the 2020 Rule 5 Draft

### 2020 TOTALS

W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP	OPPAVG
0-0	5.06	5	0	0	5.1	9	6	3	1	3	2	0	.360



## 47- STEPHEN RIDINGS RHP

Height: 6-8 Weight: 220 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: August 15, 1995 in Huntington, NY  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on January 6, 2021

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 50- SAL ROMANO RHP

Height: 6-5 Weight: 255 Bats: Left Throws: Right  
 Born: October 12, 1992 in Syosset, NY  
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on May 19, 2021

### 2020 TOTALS

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



## 54- BRODY KOERNER RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 220 Bats: Right Throws: Right  
 Born: October 18, 1993 in Winchester, VA  
 Acquired: Selected in the 17<sup>th</sup> round of the 2015 Draft from Clemson University

### 2020 TOTALS

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

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# FLO'S RIDE UP: ESTEVAN FLORIAL MAKING HIS WAY TO NY FOR GOOD

*Outfielder Estevan Florial made his Triple-A debut this season after having already made his Major League debut last year. Look back at his journey as he looks ahead to New York.*

**By Sadie Keller**



When Estevan Florial stepped foot on the field at Yankee Stadium on August 28, 2020, he accomplished a lifelong dream by making his Major League debut for the New York Yankees. Even though his stint with the big-league club was short-lived after going 1-for-3 against the Mets, a deeper spark was ignited.

“Putting on the Yankees jersey, the pinstripes, for an actual major league game, it wasn’t the same as wearing any other jersey,” Florial said. “You can just feel the difference. Being in that atmosphere and putting that jersey on, I can’t describe that.”

It was a long journey for Florial to make his debut for one of the most successful teams in baseball history, and possibly, the most storied franchise in all sports; an ascent that started with humble origins in the Caribbean.

A native of Barahona, Dominican Republic, Florial was raised by a single mother and faced many challenges in early life. When it was time for him to begin school in the Dominican, his

mother did not have his official identifying documents and simply accepted any paperwork that would get her son enrolled. The name on the paperwork was Haniel d’Oleo, which had no relation to her name or that of Florial’s biological father.

Under a new identity, Florial was able to be educated and was soon introduced to baseball. A sport that has long been popular on the island, baseball is not only a source of enjoyment for children but a way for talented Dominican players to escape the poverty of their youth.

“In the Dominican Republic, there is not enough money to invest in gloves and other pieces of equipment,” Florial said. “You start playing in the street with a ball and glove you made yourself. However, as soon as I saw the game, I fell in love. Each time I saw it after, I fell in love with it more and more.”

While Florial’s love for the game grew, so did his talent and he quickly blossomed into something special, becoming one of the top prospects in the 2014 international free agent class.

“It wasn’t just us,” Donny Rowland, the Yankees’ Director of International Scouting, said to MLB.com. “It was across the industry. He was at all the major showcases. He was among the most desirable players.”



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Florial became one of the most prized prospects in the nation, but he did so under the name of d'Oleo. Because his official paperwork was not in order, Florial was suspended by Major League Baseball Commissioner's Office and could no longer sign as part of the 2014 class. However, he remained on the Yankees' radar — even after the name discovery was made, even after he was suspended for a year by MLB for his paperwork problem.

"No one was arguing that Estevan had done anything intentionally duplicitous; he didn't seem to be falsifying his age or anything else to help increase his signing bonus," Rowland said. "I have absolutely zero belief that was his intention. Florial was just a kid from a poor background trying to go to school, and he had, through nobody's fault exactly, slipped through a crack. The climb out was a struggle, both emotionally and financially."

Florial and his mother spent the year-long suspension obtaining his birth certificate and with it a new name, his original one: Estevan Florial. When the year-long ban was over, the Yankees pounced on the opportunity to sign him.

"He never left our radar in that time, that is how much we thought of him," Rowland said. "The suspension lifted in early January 2015 and we went full tilt back on him."



Florial officially signed with the Yankees as a non-drafted free agent on March 19, 2015 for \$200,000 and continued to intrigue the world of professional baseball. The outfielder made his professional debut in the Dominican Summer League during the 2015 season, displaying his combination of speed and power. He hit .313 with 11 doubles, eight triples, seven home runs and 15 steals in 57 games played. Florial, at the young age of 17, was the co-MVP of that year's postseason.

"Playing in the Dominican Summer League was great," Florial said. "That was my first year playing professional baseball. It was a blast to be out there and know what it was like to be in an organization. I tried to find out what type of player I was going to be and develop all the skills I needed. That was the first time I wasn't playing against only one or two good guys, I was playing against an entire team of talented guys. We went to the playoffs my first year and those are moments I will never forget."

After Florial impressed at the Instructional League in the D.R., he arrived in Tampa the following January to begin workouts with the Yankees in the United States. He was even included in the Captain's Camp, which is an instructional camp for the organization's best prospects. The move presented Florial with great opportunity, but also came with the challenge of acclimating to a new language and country.

"I was put in English school even before I signed with the Yankees to prepare," Florial said. "I knew a little bit of the language when I arrived so I could communicate with the coach and talk with my friends. When I got here, that aspect was a little easier for me. However, coming to a new country, I didn't know anything about the everyday. I didn't know where to go buy food or where to move. It was difficult in the beginning."

Florial's 2016 season began as a member of the Tampa Yankees, but he was sent back to

extended spring training where he stayed until the Pulaski Yankees season started. In Pulaski, Florial played 60 games and hit for a .225 average. After the end of the Pulaski season, Florial was promoted to the Charleston Riverdogs and had a short five-game stint to end the year.

He played the 2017 season at age 19, making him two-and-a-half years younger than the average player at Class-A and closer to four years younger than the average player once he got to Advanced-A Tampa and the Arizona Fall League. Despite his age, he displayed all five of his tools as he hit .298/.372/.850 and stole 23 bases splitting time between Charleston and Tampa.

His performance earned him an appearance in the SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game, taking place in Miami as part of Major League Baseball's All-Star festivities. The Yankees then promoted him to the Trenton Thunder for their postseason but did not appear in a game. Florial followed that up with a strong performance in the Arizona Fall League, hitting .286/.383/.414 in 19 games, still playing against mostly older competition.

Accordingly, Florial's prospect stock skyrocketed. At the start of the 2018 season, Baseball Prospectus ranked Florial the 26th-best prospect in baseball, Baseball America slotted him in at No. 38 and MLB.com graded him at No. 44.

His development, however, was stunted due to injury in May of 2018. Florial was removed from a game due to wrist soreness, but the prospect required hamate surgery and couldn't return to action until August.

"That injury affected me a lot," Florial said. "When I am in season, I hate to have to be off of the playing field. I like to be on the field and playing because it is boring when I cannot be in a game and help my team win. Being injured and not being able to play, it was very frustrating to me."

Just as Florial came back from the hamate injury, he found himself missing considerable time during his 2019 campaign. In a spring training game with the Yankees, Florial fractured his right wrist attempting to make a catch at the centerfield wall. Florial returned to game action in June 2019 but had only played 158 games combined during his aged 20 and 21 seasons, missing important development time.

"When I was injured for the second year in a row, it was even harder and tougher on me," Florial said. "That was two years in a row where I lost playing time, and that is when you want to be relevant and continue your career. In the end, it is part of baseball and part of my career. Injuries happen even when you don't want them, but you have to work through them to get better and get back. When you have those injuries and lose the playing time, the next time you play you have even more energy. You need to prove that the injury is not going to stop you and that you will keep going."

That mindset propelled Florial to a strong offseason in preparation for an injury-free 2020 season. However, another season of development was stalled as the COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to its knees. Making the best of the situation, Florial reported to the alternate site in Scranton/Wilkes Barre, showed off legitimate power and earned praise from the Yankees organization. Enough praise to be called up for his Major League debut.

"Who would forget that day?" Florial said. "The call came at night after practice. Mario Garza, who was running the alternate site, called me into the room. That doesn't happen often, so I knew it was going to be something bad or something good. I couldn't remember if I had done something bad, but when I opened the door they told me the Yankees had a doubleheader the next day and I would be on the active roster. I kept asking if it would be the taxi squad or if I would be active to play and they said I would be active. That was unforgettable. I was so excited and I called my family and my wife right away. I didn't sleep that night."



Florial, at just 22-years-old, hadn't played above the High-A level at the time. It's a lot to ask of a young player to skip multiple levels, but his talent once made him a premier prospect and his play at the alternative site certainly impressed. Serving in the role of 29th man for the Yankees in their doubleheader versus the Mets on August 28, 2020, Florial played center field and hit seventh in game one at Yankee Stadium. During the bottom of the fifth inning, he recorded his first big league hit.

"Getting to New York and seeing what it was like in a real game, it was unbelievable," Florial said. "To know that is something you have been dreaming about for your whole life and now you need to just go and play. When I got that hit, I was so happy and excited."

Florial was sent back to the alternate site following the game and closed the remainder of the season training in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. He spent the offseason playing in the Dominican Winter League to get additional at-bats in real competition.

When the Yankees announced their 2021 break camp rosters, Florial was placed in Double-A and started the season with the Somerset Patriots. Still holding immense promise as a prospect, Florial cut down his strikeout percentage and put his power on full display as he launched four home runs in nine games.

After only those nine games in Somerset, Florial was promoted to Triple-A on May 14 and returned to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre now as a member of the RailRiders. He continued to hit for more power than he ever has as a Yankees farmhand, and was offered another opportunity at the big leagues when the injury-ridden Yankees recalled him for a doubleheader on May 28. While that was once again only a one day promotion, Florial made the most of the opportunity.

"It doesn't matter when they give me the opportunity," Florial said in a Yankees press conference. "I have to take advantage of it, do the best I can and help the team. That's the most important thing. It's not just about myself. It's about the team."

After returning to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Florial picked up right where he left off. Now in mid-July, he has 42 games at the Triple-A level under his belt and has slashed .213/.318/.408 with eight home runs and 25 RBI. Florial is working with Hitting Coach Casey Dykes to become big league ready on a daily basis for the Yankees.

"I am really trying to stay consistent," Florial said. "I work with our hitting coach to be consistent physically, mentally and in every aspect of the game. It is important to be as consistent as possible every single day."

While Florial needs valuable development in Triple-A, especially after missing the majority of the last three seasons of baseball due to injury and the COVID-19 pandemic, he is still only 23 years old and is ranked as the No. 10 prospect in the Yankees' system by MLB.com. It is a long journey to the major leagues, and Florial has traveled quite a distance already since his past in the Dominican Republic, showcasing his potential in 2017 and injuries that he has overcome since.

Due to his natural ability and passion, Florial's star quality has ascended again, putting him on the cusp of becoming an everyday major leaguer. While he has reached his dream of debuting in the MLB, his new goal of putting the pinstripes on daily, walking onto the field at Yankee Stadium and feeling the magic in the atmosphere is closer than it's ever been for Florial.





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# ROUNDING THE BASES: RAILRIDERS REFINING THE RUNNING GAME

*Scranton/Wilkes-Barre's game on the basepaths has transformed this summer. From stolen bases to going first-to-third, this new, aggressive approach is paying dividends.*

**By Joe Vasile**



Photo Credit: Todd Hiller

One day on the RailRiders last homestand against the Syracuse Mets, veteran outfielders Ryan LaMarre and Greg Allen were on the field hours before batting practice. They stood around second base listening to a man wearing a Yankees shirt. The man is Yankees Minor League Baserunning Coordinator and Roving Hitting Instructor Matt Talarico.

Much attention is given to hitting, fielding and pitching, but baserunning is an aspect of the game that is often overlooked and often can be the make-or-break moment in a single game. On this particular day, the two big-league veterans are taking practice leads off second base, a seemingly mundane drill.

There is nothing mundane about baserunning for Matt Talarico. Passion flows from the 37-year-old instructor when discussing the topic, which is part art and part science.

Talarico is in his second season in the Yankees organization after 13 years of coaching in collegiate baseball, most recently at Wright State University from 2015-19. Though he never played professional ball, LaMarre and Allen know he can help give them an edge on the bases.

"I mean, these guys are already so good, right? So I think you're just looking if there any tool we can add that we can take what you already do well and give you a new way to look at it," Talarico said. "So sometimes it's actually like a tool on the field. And sometimes it's a new way to approach a pitcher and his patterns and what he's doing. Sometimes it's a little bit of both, depending on who it is. With LaMarre and Allen, it was a mix of a little all of that. They're just so smart. You never have to stop because they pick up so well."

The focus of that day's lesson was improving at stealing third. Both Allen and LaMarre have bonafide base stealing chops, but neither felt as comfortable going to third as they do to second. Talarico gave some tips on reading pitchers and how to take a slightly different lead to gain an edge.



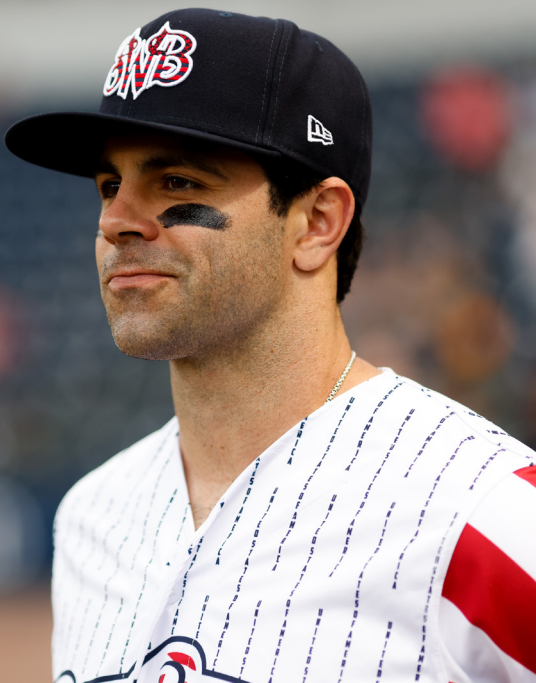


Photo Credit: Todd Hiller

"I had a 55 stolen base season [in 2011], but it was all second base," LaMarre said, noting how stealing third is a different animal. "Matt was helping me with a few tricks to try to take third."

Stolen bases have been in a steady decline in baseball over the past decade as teams have become more cautious. In 2018 the RailRiders stole just 49 bases as a team for the entire season, and in 2019 they stole 77 in 141 games. Through 63 games in 2021 entering the current homestand, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre is bucking that trend, having stolen 67 bases, including 19 in the month of July so far.

That is part of the Yankees' plan. Talarico says that you may see guys make mistakes and get thrown out sometimes, but that the organization wants players to be more aggressive on the basepaths. If they do make a mistake, they learn for the next time what their limitations are and how to

be better in the future. That is especially important for players preparing to make the step up to the Bronx.

He looks to modern analytics and metrics to help improve player performance in the area to make them more prolific. Knocking off two hundredths of a second off a player's time from first to second base can be the difference between out and safe, a razor's edge improvement with huge consequences.

It's not just limited to steals, either. Going first-to-third on a base hit to the outfield, tagging up and advancing a base on a fly out, and getting quicker reads on wild pitches and passed balls are all aspects that don't show up in a box score but are productive and help the team win. By helping to refine these skills as well, the RailRiders can play a fast-paced, exciting brand of baseball designed to win.



Photo Credit: Tim Dougherty



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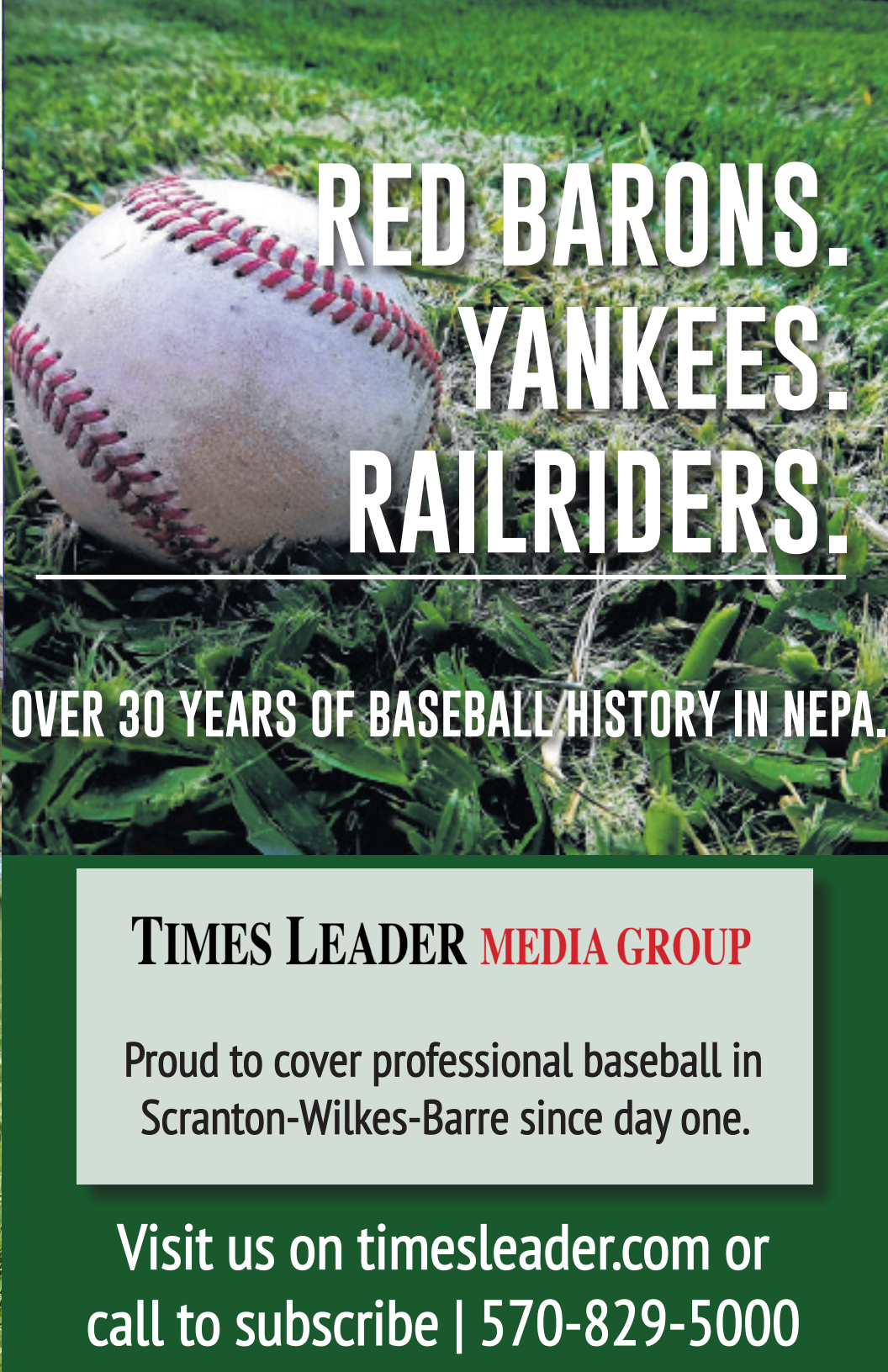
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# MAN ON A MISSION: WOJCIECHOWSKI RETURNING TO FULL STRENGTH

*After missing the first few month of 2021, pitcher Asher Wojciechowski is returning to form and to his unconventional path.*

by Joe Vasile



There is nothing typical about the path taken by Asher Wojciechowski to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders. Since he was selected by the Toronto Blue Jays in the first round of the 2010 MLB Draft, he has pitched for 15 professional teams, including nine in the last 11 years.

Baseball has been a particularly nomadic lifestyle for him and his wife, but one that feels familiar to the starting pitcher. When he was a kid, the Wojciechowski's moved a lot – from South Carolina to Florida to the Dominican Republic, and even to Bucharest, Romania for three years. His parents were missionaries, and the experience is something that is still not lost to this day.

“The kids were just left; their parents didn’t want them. It hurt them. Being with them, it helped them, and it helps me, too,” Wojciechowski said of one Romanian children’s home. “I would go there and play with them, because we were all kids. I remember how dirty the living conditions were. The lice, the dirty clothes, the dirty toys.”

It was a formative experience for Asher and the kids, who for a little while could forget about their troubles and just have fun. While the work was important, it wasn’t an easy decision for the Wojciechowski’s to uproot and move across the world to Eastern Europe.

Asher loved to play baseball, and there wasn’t much of it being played in Romania. When they discussed the move as a family and his parents told him that it meant probably giving up baseball, Asher said, “Well, Momma, if that’s what God said we need to do, then we need to do it.”

After a year, a Little League team started up that Wojciechowski was able to play for during his remaining time in Romania. The family eventually came back to the United States and settled in Beaufort, South Carolina for Asher to go to high school.



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Upon graduation, he attended The Citadel for college. Located on the coast in Charleston, The Citadel is a rigorous military college with top-notch academics. It does not offer the traditional college experience to its enrolled cadets, and that is something that Wojciechowski is still thankful for.

“It was a great experience, but it’s not a fun experience. When it’s happening, especially your freshman year, is really tough. It’s very strict,” he says. “I learned so much in my three years there just about time management, discipline, discipline, respect, responsibility. It really just molded me into who I am today. And so it was tough when I was going through it, but I’m very happy that I went through all that.”

He led the Bulldogs to the 2010 Southern Conference championship as a junior, and was taken 41st overall in the MLB Draft by the Toronto Blue Jays following the season. He was one of the top prospects for the Blue Jays before he was traded to the Houston Astros in 2012. The Astros were in the middle of an organizational reset where they lost over 105 games in three straight seasons, but Wojo was slated to be a part of their resurgence.

Asher’s MLB debut with Houston came in 2015, when the Astros went 86-76 and made the playoffs for the first time in a decade. Some media outlets touted him as the “next big thing” for Houston, but it didn’t work out that way. After posting a 7.16 ERA in 16.0 big-league innings in 2015, the Astros apparently didn’t need to see any more. He began 2016 with Triple-A Fresno, and was placed on waivers in late May, when he was claimed by the Miami Marlins.

Wojciechowski spent the rest of 2016 in the Marlins minor league system and signed with the Arizona Diamondbacks in December only to be released at the end of spring training in 2017. He caught on with the Reds and made 25 appearances for Cincinnati that year, but was



granted free agency at the end of the season. Since then, he has bounced from Baltimore to the Chicago White Sox to Cleveland and back to Baltimore before signing with the Yankees on February 2, 2021.

Despite all of that change, Asher doesn't feel like he has changed drastically as a pitcher or a competitor throughout the years: "It's just making minor adjustments along my career. I still look back at videos of me when I was in college and in my early days and see the adjustments I've made but I've always been the same competitor and had the same mindset, going into every start."

He was competing for a roster spot with the Yankees during spring training, but a back injury shut him down from throwing completely for five weeks. He was able to work his way back and make his season debut for the RailRiders on June 29 and has been getting his pitch and innings count up and soaking in the workings of a new organization.

"The biggest impression [of the Yankees so far] is just the professionalism and kind of the data-driven approach that they've been taking, just with collecting data on pitches, on strength, on speed, on explosiveness in the weight room, stuff like that," says Wojciechowski about his brief time in pinstripes.



Despite his unusual path, he shares the same dream as every other RailRider – to get to the major leagues. He knows that if he keeps working hard and competing, that will happen soon: "At the end of the day, it comes down to competing on the field in between the lines, and that's all I'm trying to do right now -- get into a good rhythm, find my groove and get on a good roll."

*Photo Credits: Chery Pursell*



## RAILRIDERS RADIO NETWORK

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

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Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders broadcasts

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

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





# FINAL STRETCH: 10 GAMES ADDED TO 2021 SEASON WITH A FLAIR

*Whirlwind season will add 10 games to end of the schedule, extending RailRiders baseball into October for the first time in history.*



Minor League Baseball and Major League Baseball has announced the rescheduling of 10 games at the Triple-A level that were postponed at the start of the 2021 season. The rescheduled games will be played in a new postseason tournament format called the “Triple-A Final Stretch” and will follow the current 120-game Triple-A championship season schedule. All 30 Triple-A clubs will play five home games and five road games during the Final Stretch.

For both the Triple-A East and Triple-A West, a 2021 Regular Season Champion will be named based on overall winning percentage through the originally scheduled championship season (concluding Sept. 19 and Sept. 21, respectively). Among the 30 clubs, a single 2021 Triple-A Final Stretch Winner will also be crowned based on the highest overall winning percentage during this 10-game stretch. The winning club will be awarded a prize from Major League Baseball.

“We think this format will add excitement to the end of the season while also allowing our teams a chance to reschedule games that were lost earlier in the year,” said Major League Baseball Senior Vice President, Minor League Operations and Development Peter Woodfork. “With all 30 teams participating in this Final Stretch, all Triple-A players and communities will have the opportunity to win this year’s postseason tournament.”

The following tiebreakers will apply to determine the two Regular Season Champions as well as the Final Stretch winner:

1. Best regular season winning percentage.
2. Regular season head-to-head record (if three or more clubs are tied, the best winning percentage in games among the clubs).
3. Best regular season winning percentage over the final 20 games.
4. Best regular season winning percentage over the final 21 games, etc.

The schedule for the Triple-A Final Stretch is attached and the matchups are as follows:

## TRIPLE-A EAST

### WEEK 1

AWAY	HOME
Lehigh Valley	Buffalo
Rochester	Worcester
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>Scranton-WB</b>
Columbus	Nashville
Indianapolis	Omaha
Iowa	St. Paul
Toledo	Louisville
Norfolk	Charlotte
Gwinnett	Durham
Memphis	Jacksonville

### WEEK 2

AWAY	HOME
Buffalo	Syracuse
Worcester	Lehigh Valley
<b>Scranton-WB</b>	<b>Rochester</b>
Louisville	Columbus
Nashville	Indianapolis
Omaha	Iowa
St. Paul	Toledo
Charlotte	Memphis
Durham	Norfolk
Jacksonville	Gwinnett

## TRIPLE-A WEST

### WEEK 1

AWAY	HOME
Reno	Albuquerque
Sugar Land	El Paso
Oklahoma City	Las Vegas
Tacoma	Round Rock
Sacramento	Salt Lake

### WEEK 2

AWAY	HOME
Albuquerque	Sacramento
El Paso	Oklahoma City
Round Rock	Sugar Land
Las Vegas	Reno
Salt Lake	Tacoma

Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre will host Syracuse for five additional games at PNC Field from September 22 through 26 and will travel to Rochester for the final five days of the Final Stretch from September 29 through October 3.

The RailRiders are 13-5 against the Mets so far this year and 4-2 against the Red Wings, having not seen the Red Wings since mid-May at Frontier Field.

Full season ticket members will receive the five additional games at no extra charge and tickets will be added to their AccountManager. Half and partial season ticket members will be able to use their vouchers, unused tickets and account credit to get tickets to these games.

Single-game tickets for the five additional games against Syracuse at PNC Field will go on sale next month.



# UPCOMING PROMOTIONS

## JULY

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

## AUGUST

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



## July

- 20 \$2 Tuesday- Get \$2 Landshark tallboys for two hours after gates open! 
- 21 Waggin' Wednesday   
\$1 Hot Dogs for two hours after gates open courtesy of Sabrett
- 22 Thirsty Thursday- Get \$1 Bud Light drafts & \$1 Pepsi products for two hours after gates open presented by  & 
- 23 2013 Throwbacks w/ custom jersey auction & Post Game Fireworks! 
- 24 Bud Light Seltzer Saturday- Get \$2 Black Cherry Bud Light Seltzers for two hours after gates open; 6:05 P.M. First Pitch   
Jeter Bobblehead Giveaway for the first 2,500 fans 
- 25 1:05 P.M. First Pitch; Geisinger Sunday Family Fun Day 

## August

- 3 \$2 Tuesday- Get \$2 Lawn Seats (online only) & \$2 Landshark Tallboys 
- 4 Waggin' Wednesday & \$1 Dog Night 
- 5 Thirsty Thursday  & 
- 6 Faith & Family Night plus Post Game Fireworks! 
- 7 Jersey Lunchbag Giveaway for the first 2,500 fans 
- 8 Geisinger Sunday Family Fun Day 

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