

BAYWATCH



ISSUE NO. 1

OFFICIAL *Baysox* GAME PROGRAM

2026 SEASON



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A MESSAGE TO THE FANS FROM

GREG BARONI

Baysox **FANS,**

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to an exciting new chapter of baseball in Bowie. Over the course of the offseason, our team has been hard at work making meaningful investments across the ballpark—enhancing player development facilities while **reimagining the overall fan experience**. These improvements would not have been possible without the strong partnership and shared commitment of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the Maryland Stadium Authority, the Baltimore Orioles, and our partners at the Canopy Team. Many of these upgrades are designed to support player development—including new home and fully renovated visitor clubhouses, along with a 14,000-square-foot performance center featuring state-of-the-art batting cages, a weight room, and training facilities that give our players the resources they need to train, recover, and prepare at a high level. At the same time, we've taken this opportunity to thoughtfully elevate the fan experience. You'll see those enhancements throughout the ballpark, all designed to **create a more engaging, family-friendly, and distinctly Chesapeake Bay-inspired atmosphere**. **A new kids zone** celebrates the region's coastal heritage with a lighthouse-themed play structure, **ADA-accessible activities** space for younger fans—while the longtime favorite carousel



remains nearby. At the front entry plaza, **new bobblehead sculptures** and baseball turf welcome fans and reflect elements found at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, reinforcing our connection to the Baltimore Orioles. Across the concourse, **newly installed drink rails** provide flexible spaces for fans to gather, dine, and take in the game from multiple vantage points. ADA-accessible viewing platforms offer improved sightlines and a more inclusive experience for all guests. **The main entrance has been refreshed** to create a more inviting arrival, highlighted by a **new video display** showcasing team content and game-day moments. Throughout the ballpark, **Chesapeake Bay–inspired murals, updated finishes, and improved wayfinding signage** add local character while making it easier for fans to navigate and enjoy their visit. These investments reflect our long-term commitment to this team and to this community. The Chesapeake Baysox play an important role in developing future Baltimore Orioles players, and we are proud to provide an environment that supports that mission. Most importantly, **this ballpark is a place for the community to come together. Whether you're here for the game, spending time with family, or enjoying a night out, we want every visit to feel welcoming and memorable.** Looking ahead, **our vision extends beyond baseball.** We are committed to building a year-round destination for the community—one that brings people together through concerts, events, youth sports, and shared experiences well beyond the season. This is just the beginning, and we will continue to invest, evolve, and build on this momentum in the years ahead. **Your passion and support are what bring this ballpark to life.** As we step into this next era, we do so with a deep sense of pride and excitement for what's ahead. On behalf of the entire Attain Sports family, thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to seeing you at the ballpark!

Sincerely,

Greg Baroni

 **Attain Sports**

CEO & Founder

Owner of the Chesapeake Baysox

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Ralph Velazquez 1B/OF

Ralph Velazquez, a top-five Guardians prospect, via MLB Pipeline, showcases serious power at the plate. He combined for 22 home runs in 2025, including five long balls in 28 games with Akron. Velazquez was drafted 23rd overall by the Guardians in 2023 out of Huntington Beach High School.

Kahl Stephen RHP

Kahl Stephen is the top-ranked pitching prospect in the Guardians system. He was the return to Cleveland last summer from the Blue Jays in the Shane Bieber trade. Stephen debuted in the Eastern League for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats just before being traded and battled injury in 2025.



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John Peck INF

Peck is heralded as the top defensive shortstop in the Tigers system and currently ranks as Detroit's No. 15 prospect, via MLB Pipeline. Peck reached Double-A Erie last season and is the top ranked Tigers prospect on the Erie active roster. Peck was a Non-Roster invitee to Tigers Spring Training.

Wandisson Charles RHP

A familiar face, Wandisson Charles pitched for the Baysox in both 2023 and 2024, reaching as high as Triple-A Norfolk while in the Orioles organization. Charles is in his first year with the Tigers organization and posted a 2.35 ERA with the Baysox back in 2023.

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MEET THE 2026 ^{CHESAPEAKE} Baysox

The **Chesapeake Baysox 2026 Opening Day Roster** includes **six top 30 Orioles prospects**, including a pair in the top 10, according to MLB Pipeline.

Headlining the position player group is infielder **Aron Estrada**. The No. 7 Orioles' prospect, via MLB Pipeline, Estrada returns to Chesapeake, where he spent the final 27 games of last season. Estrada hit .300 for the Baysox with five home runs and 13 RBI. Between Chesapeake and High-A Aberdeen, Estrada posted a .288 average in 108 games with 10 home runs, 53 RBI and 34 stolen bases. Still just 21-years-old, Estrada was a non-roster invitee to Orioles Spring Training this year, where he went 2-for-7 at the plate in five games.



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MEET THE 2026 Baysox

POSITION PLAYERS

A pair of additional top 30 prospects in C Ethan Anderson (No. 24) and IF Griff O’Ferrall (No. 27) also lead the Baysox position player group. Anderson shined this offseason in the Arizona Fall League, where he hit .300 in 19 games with eight doubles – second-most in the league.

Other returners to the position player group include C Adam Retzbach, IF Frederick Bencosme, INF Brandon Butterworth, IF/OF Tavian Josenberger, IF Carter Young, OF Doug Hodo, and OF **Thomas Sosa** (No. 18). New position players listed include IF Anderson De Los Santos and Fernando Peguero.



PITCHERS

On the mound, LHP Luis De León (No. 2) leads the way. In 2025, De León pitched to a 3.30 ERA in 87.1 innings, continuing his success into the Arizona Fall League, where he posted a 2.76 ERA and tallied the third-most strikeouts (22).

RHP Tyson Neighbors (No. 15) is set to help anchor the Baysox bullpen. Other returning pitchers include LHP Micah Ashman, along with RHPs Zane Barnhart, Trace Bright, Christian Herberholz, Ryan Long, Blake Money, Gerald Ogando, Yaqui Rivera, and Carlos Tavera.



2026 Baysox COACHING STAFF

MANAGER

ROBERTO MERCADO

Roberto Mercado returns as Baysox manager for his third season in 2026. In Mercado's first two seasons with the Baysox, his staffs have overseen 32 players who were promoted to Triple-A and eight players make their major league debut, including six this past season. Notable Baysox alumni that played under Mercado include [Samuel Basallo](#), [Dylan Beavers](#), and [Jeremiah Jackson](#). Baysox manager are eighth-most in franchise history.

Mercado joined the Orioles organization in 2022. Prior to that, he coached baseball at New Britain High School in Connecticut for 17 years, while serving as the Dean of Students there for 18 years.



2026 Baysox COACHING STAFF



JOSH BUNSELMAYER *HITTING COACH*

Bunselmeyer is back for his third season as Baysox hitting coach. 2026 will be Bunselmeyer's seventh season in the Orioles' system. He joined the Baysox as hitting coach in 2024, after filling the same role for the Orioles' Single-A affiliate, the Delmarva Shorebirds, in 2023. He spent the previous three campaigns as a hitting coach in both the Florida Complex League and Dominican Summer League.



JEREMY HILEMAN *PITCHING COACH*

Hileman joins Chesapeake for his second season in the Orioles organization. He served as the pitching coach for High-A Aberdeen in 2025 and represented the Orioles as a pitching coach in the Arizona Fall League following his 2025 campaign with the IronBirds. Prior to joining the professional ranks with the Orioles, Hileman spent parts of six years coaching collegiately as an assistant at Saint Joseph's University, Army West Point, Canisius, and Shippensburg



GAL CHRISTIANSEN *DEVELOPMENT COACH*

Christiansen returns to his role as Chesapeake development coach this season. Christiansen worked on Mercado's staff in 2025. He spent the prior two seasons as a technology coordinator for Single-A Delmarva. Christiansen is a 2019 graduate of the University of California, Davis. University.



RYAN GOLL *FUNDAMENTALS COACH*

Goll is set to serve as the Chesapeake fundamentals coach in 2026. Goll was a member of the Baysox staff in 2023 as the development coach. Goll has spent five seasons on the Baltimore farm, most recently serving as manager of High-A Aberdeen, in 2025.

WEEKLY PROMOTIONS

MILITARY Appreciation

MILITARY APPRECIATION

Discounted ticket offers for former and active military who present a valid military ID on **Tuesday night home games.**

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Dogs with proper leashes and vaccine records get in for free on **select Wednesday night home games.** (must show proper tags at the gate)

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Enjoy LIVE music and pregame drink specials from our *Budweiser Picnic Pavilion* from 5:00-6:30 prior to **select Thursday night home games.**

SUNDAY Family FUNDAY

SUNDAY FAMILY FUNDAY

Pregame activities including FREE Kids Park access and player autographs from 12:00-12:30, and all fans can run the bases postgame following **Sunday home games.**

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