

This field,  
this game

... it's a part  
of our past.  
It reminds  
us of all  
that once  
was good  
... and that  
could be  
again.



# RockHounds Yearbook

2020 Online Edition





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# RockHounds 2020 Yearbook

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### Photography

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### Advertising

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William Thomas II

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Jamie Richardson  
Jeff VonHolle

### Special Thanks

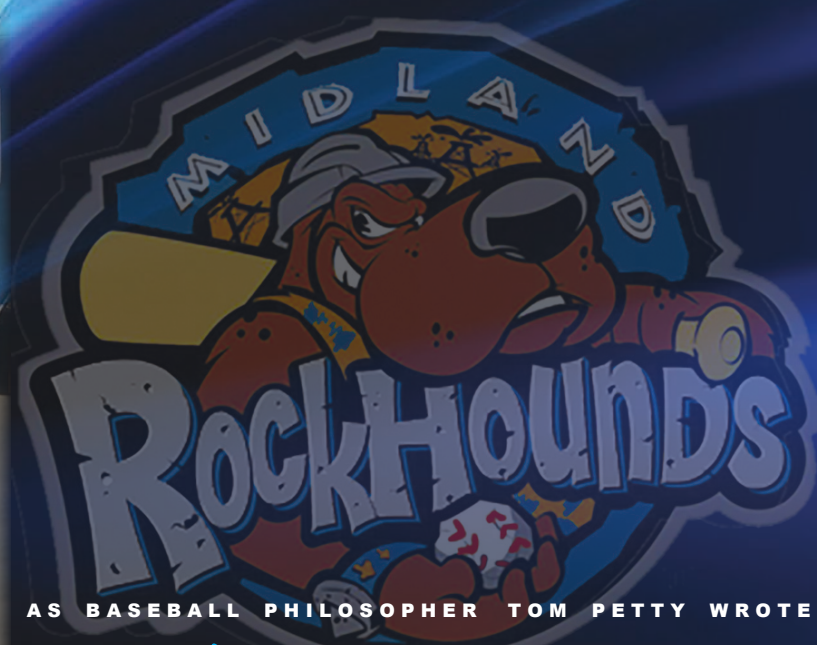
Nathan Hymel Associate Editor & Online Producer  
Jamie Richardson Contributions Above & Beyond

### RockHounds Yearbook

Bob Hards Editor, Design & Layout







AS BASEBALL PHILOSOPHER TOM PETTY WROTE

"... the waiting is  
the hardest part."



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For the Field

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Ryan S. Rowland M.D.  
Gage Liesman M.D.

*Sports  
Medicine*



*As club doctor for more than 30 years, Dr. Floyd has contributed to the success of our franchise through his expertise in sports medicine.*

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# A Season Like No Other



Miles, Bob & Monty

RockHounds co-owners Miles Prentice and Bob Richmond and general manager Monty Hoppel have led our franchise for three decades (and are now entering a fourth) ... and it has been a remarkable journey. In 1995 the Angels were named winners of Baseball America's Bob Freitas Award as the nation's best AA franchise. A decade later the RockHounds brought home the franchise's first outright Texas League championship ... and there would be five more to come, including the amazing (and historic) Four-Peat (2014-17).

The RockHounds have also received Minor League Baseball's two highest honors -- the Larry MacPhail Award in 2016 (for promotional creativity and community involvement) and the John H. Johnson Award (2007), recognizing the top franchise, at any level, in all of Minor League Baseball.

Yet we have never seen one such as this.

Each of the men and women you will "meet" in this section of our Yearbook feels privileged to work in Minor League Baseball and for this franchise.

From our "family" to yours ... we miss you and look forward to the time, hopefully soon, when we can all again go out to the ballgame.



**Monty Hoppel**  
General Manager

Laurel, Montana

RockHounds:  
Season # 31

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"Rocket Man"  
(Elton John)  
"Christ Is Risen"  
(Matt Maher)  
"Highway 20 Ride"  
(Zac Brown Band)  
"Dancing in the Dark"  
(Bruce Springsteen)



**Ray Fieldhouse**  
Assistant General Manager

San Luis Obispo, California

RockHounds:  
Season # 24

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"Back to Free"  
(Drake White)  
"Drowning Man"  
(Eric Church)  
"Talladega"  
(Eric Church)  
"Yesterdays"  
(Guns 'N Roses)



**Jamie Richardson**  
Assistant General Manager  
Marketing & Tickets

Brunswick, Missouri

RockHounds:  
Season # 24

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"The Motto"  
(Drake)  
"Vaseline"  
(Stone Temple Pilots)  
"You Oughta Know"  
(Alanis Morissette)  
"Hey Little Cobra"  
(The Rip Chords)



**Jeff VonHolle**  
Assistant General Manager

Middletown, Ohio

RockHounds:  
Season # 27

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"Rocky Top"  
(Osborne Borthers)  
"These Dreams"  
(Heart)  
"Life Is a Highway"  
(Rascal Flatts)  
"Rocket Man"  
(Elton John)



Heart

## Batter Up ... In our Imaginations!

Virtually every batter across all of baseball now comes to the plate (or enters the game in the case of pitchers) to his own theme ... a "walk-up song." It was suggested (**great call, Jeff VonHolle!**) that we let our staff members make their own walk-up song selections as this year's added "insight" to go with the basic info on the RockHounds' family.

**By the way ... do you know where walk-up music originated?**

In 1970, Chicago White Sox organist **Nancy Faust** began playing each player's home state song as he came to the plate. Musical selections have, shall we say, "evolved," but here's to you, Nancy!







**Ryan Artzer**  
Director of Tickets

Midland, Texas  
RockHounds:  
Season # 2

**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"Never Lose Your Flames"  
(Issues)  
"Scarlet"  
(Periphery)  
"Jailbreak"  
(Thin Lizzy)  
"Brain Pain"  
(Four Year Strong)



**Matthew Bari**  
Director of Sales & Marketing

Eunice, Louisiana  
RockHounds:  
Season # 5

**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"Back Then"  
(Mike Jones)  
"Stay Fly"  
(Three 6 Mafia)  
"The Show Goes On"  
(Lupe Fiasco)  
"Rock Star"  
(Chamillionaire & Lil Wayne)



**Matthew Barnett**  
Director of Sales

Goliad, Texas  
RockHounds:  
Season # 4

**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"I Put A Spell On You"  
(Screamin' Jay Hawkins)  
"Sweet Home Chicago"  
(David "Honeyboy" Edwards)  
"White Washed"  
(August Burns Red)  
"God's Country"  
(Blake Shelton)



**"Enter Sandman" Mariano Rivera**

"Enter Sandman" is perhaps the most famous piece of walk-up / entry music in all of baseball, but Mariano Rivera didn't choose it ... a Yankees marketing m did. Mariano once told Dan Patrick that, if HE had been asked to choose his own music, it would be a song by Panamanian artist Ruben Blades titled 'Patria'.



**Metallica**



**Rachael DiLeonardo**  
Director of Community Relations

Milton, Georgia  
RockHounds:  
Season # 2

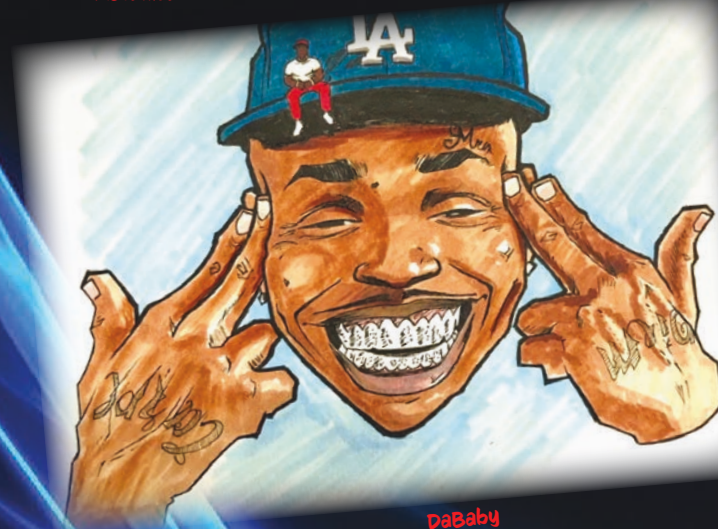
**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"Bop"  
(DaBaby)  
"Uproar"  
(Lil Wayne)  
"All Star"  
(Smash Mouth)  
"Livin' la Vida Loca"  
(Ricky Martin)



**Hunter Fritscher**  
Assistant Groundskeeper

Waco, Texas  
RockHounds:  
Season # 1

**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"Suge"  
(DaBaby)  
"Bad Company"  
(Five Finger Death Punch)  
"Big Iron"  
(Marty Robbins)  
"The Box"  
(Rodd Ricch)



**DaBaby**





Elton John



Guns 'N Roses



## Eloisa Galvan

Director of  
Business Operations

Midland, Texas

RockHounds:  
Season # 27

### Steppin' To the Dish To:

"Bidi Bidi Bom Bom"  
(Selena)

"Chunky"  
(Bruno Mars)

"Mama's Broken Heart"  
(Miranda Lambert)

"How to Be a Heartbreaker"  
(Marina and the Diamonds)

"Careless Whisper"  
(George Michael)



## Shelly Haenggi

Director of  
Client Services

Laurel, Montana

RockHounds:  
Season # 7

### Steppin' To the Dish To:

"Harper Valley P.T.A."  
(Jeannie C. Riley)

"Coal Miner's Daughter"  
(Loretta Lynn)

"Ring of Fire"  
(Johnny Cash)

"Where I Come From"  
(Alan Jackson)



## Bob Hards

Director of Broadcasting  
& Publications

Seattle, Washington

RockHounds:  
Season # 29

### Steppin' To the Dish To:

"All Along the Watchtower"  
(Jimi Hendrix)

"The Boys of Summer"  
(Don Henley)

"Theme From The Natural"  
(Randy Newman)

"When I'm Sixty-Four"  
(The Beatles)



## Mason Harrington

Group Sales Assistant

Odessa, Texas

RockHounds:  
Season # 1

### Steppin' To the Dish To:

"Until the Whole World Hears"  
(Casting Crowns)

"Black Betty"  
(Ram Jam)

"Strong Tower"  
(Kutless)

"Coming In Hot"  
(Lecrae)



## Nathan Hymel

Media Relations  
Coordinator

Midland, Texas

RockHounds:  
Season # 3

### Steppin' To the Dish To:

"Your Love"  
(The Outfield)

"The Show Goes On"  
(Lupe Fiasco)

"Kids"  
(MGMT)

"So Good"  
(B.o.B.)



Johnny Cash



The  
Outfield





**Dan Knapinski**  
Operations Manager

Neenah, Wisconsin

RockHounds:  
Season # 1

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"March Madness"  
(Future)

"Narcos"  
(Migos)

"Big Poppa"  
(The Notorious B.I.G.)

"6 Foot 7 Foot"  
(Lil Wayne)



**Leslie Martin**

Customer Service  
Assistant

Pulaski, Virginia

RockHounds:  
Season # 1

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"The Man"  
(Taylor Swift)

"The Greatest Show"  
(The Greatest Showman)

"Cool"  
(Jonas Brothers)

"Fancy"  
(Reba McEntire)



**Al Melville**

Assistant Concessions  
Manager

Rochester, New York

RockHounds:  
Season # 4

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"I Ran (So Far Away)"  
(A Flock of Seagulls)

"Break My Stride"  
(Matthew Wilder)

"Bulls on Parade"  
(Rage Against the Machine)

"No Tears"  
(Scarface)



**Lupe Fiasco**



**Kenny Chesney**



**Lil Wayne**



**Eric Peckham**

Head Groundskeeper

Leander, Texas

RockHounds:  
Season # 3

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"The South"  
(The Cadillac Three)

"God's Gonna Cut You Down"  
(Johnny Cash)

"Crazy Train"  
(Ozzy Osbourne)

"Buy Me A Boat"  
(Chris Janson)



**Russ Pinkerton**

Director of Video Production  
& Game Entertainment

Durham, North Carolina

RockHounds:  
Season # 7

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"Smooth Criminal"  
(Michael Jackson)

"Theme from Shaft"  
(Issac Hayes)

"The Undertaker's Theme"  
(Jim Johnston)

"White & Nerdy"  
(Weird Al Yankovic)



**Mitch Riddle**

Operations Intern

Odessa, Texas

RockHounds:  
Season # 1

Steppin' To the Dish To:

"I'm Shipping Up to Boston"  
(Dropkick Murphys)

"Tom Sawyer"  
(Rush)

"Beer in Mexico"  
(Kenny Chesney)

"Enter Sandman"  
(Metallica)



**Ozzy Osbourne**





**Cannon Schrank**  
Director of Operations

College Station, Texas  
**RockHounds:**  
Season # 3

**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"Circle of Life"  
(Elton John / Lion King)  
"Dueling Banjos"  
(Eric Weissberg / Deliverance)  
"They're So Incredible"  
(Revenge / Revenge of the Nerds)  
"Man of Constant Sorry"  
(Soggy Bottom Boys)



**Josh Selaya**  
Sales Executive

Grain Valley, Missouri  
**RockHounds:**  
Season # 1

**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"Party in the U.S.A."  
(Miley Cyrus)  
"All Time Low"  
(Jon Bellion)  
"Seven Nation Army"  
(The White Stripes)  
"Farsighted"  
(The Band Camino)



**William Thomas II**  
Sales Executive

Newport News, Virginia  
**RockHounds:**  
Season # 1

**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"Pony"  
(Ginuwine)  
"Day 'n' Nite"  
(Kid Cudi)  
"Humble"  
(Kendrick Lamar)  
"The Man"  
(Aloe Blacc)



**Peyton Wilkins**  
Assistant Video Producer

Opelika, Alabama  
**RockHounds:**  
Season # 1

**Steppin' To the Dish To:**  
"Jurassic Park Theme Song"  
(John Williams)  
"Kashmir"  
(Led Zeppelin)  
"Tiptoe Through the Tulips"  
(Tiny Tim)  
"Drop It Like It's Hot"  
(Snoop Dog)



## Editor's Choice Award



Special recognition to our  
Video Production Dept. ...  
Russ Pinkerton (see pg. 10)  
and Peyton Wilkins  
... for a walk-up artist list  
that gives a whole new defini-  
tion to the word "diverse."

The composers, themselves,  
are an amazing trio:

**Jim Johnston** has written  
hundreds of WWE themes  
(including "The Undertaker")  
... **Isaac Hayes** (who wrote  
"Shaft") and the great **John  
Williams** (one of the greatest  
film composers of all time,  
with 25 Grammy Awards and  
52 Oscar nominations).

Then add to the mix some  
**Led Zeppelin**, **Snoop Dog**,  
"Weird" **Al Yankovic**, **Michael  
Jackson** and (you gotta  
be kidding me) **Tiny Tim**  
(there's a Google for ya) ...

Wow, what a group!



Clockwise, from top left:

John Williams, Led Zeppelin,  
"Weird" Al Yankovic, Michael Jackson  
and Tiny Tim.

(Note the price tag on that album ...  
87-cents ... wonder how much a copy  
of that vinyl would go for today!)





**THE BREAKING NEWS  
& WEATHER AUTHORITY**

**5:00PM 6:00PM  
9:00PM 10:00PM**

**NOTICIERO  
20 TELEMUNDO**

**A LAS  
5 Y  
10 P.M.**



**WAKE UP  
West Texas**



**5AM TO 7AM  
& 7AM TO 9AM  
ON MYTV16**

**CBS 7 MEDIA  
GROUP**





# League of Extraordinary Gentlemen

This section of the RockHounds Yearbook offers a quick "tour" of the Texas League.

We also include a reminder that, of the players you're watching at Momentum Bank Ballpark, 1-in-every-3 will reach the Major League level.

*Among them are some of the best in the game.*



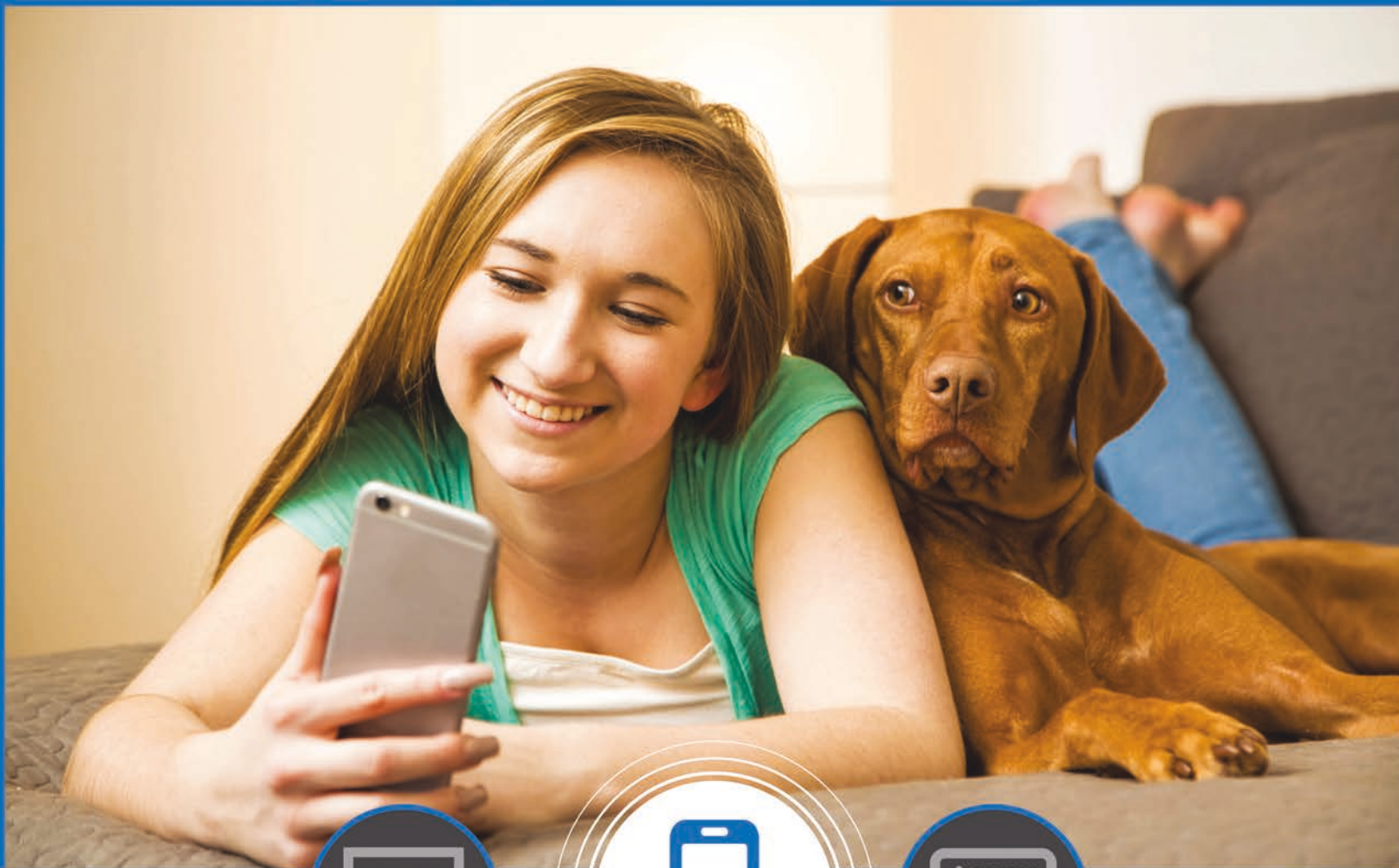
Mike Trout



Cody Bellinger



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## The 2020 Texas League

### North Division

Arkansas Travelers  
NW Arkansas Naturals  
Tulsa Drillers

### te)

Seattle Mariners  
Kansas City Royals  
St. Louis Cardinals  
Los Angeles Dodgers

### South Division

Amarillo Sod Poodles  
Corpus Christi Hooks  
Frisco RoughRiders  
RockHounds

### te)

San Diego Padres  
Houston Astros  
Texas Rangers  
Oakland A's



## Texas League Champions of the 2000's

Year	TL Champion	tion)	Runner-Up	tion)
2000	Round Rock Express	(Houston Astros)	Wichita Wranglers	(Kansas City Royals)
2001	Arkansas Travelers	(Los Angeles Angels)	Round Rock Express	(Houston Astros)
2002	San Antonio Missions	(Seattle Mariners)	Tulsa Drillers	(Texas Rangers)
2003	San Antonio Missions	(Seattle Mariners)	Frisco RoughRiders	(Texas Rangers)
2004	Frisco RoughRiders	(Texas Rangers)	Round Rock Express	(Houston Astros)
2005	RockHounds	(Oakland A's)	Arkansas Travelers	(Los Angeles Angels)
2006	Corpus Christi Hooks	(Houston Astros)	Wichita Wranglers	(Kansas City Royals)
2007	San Antonio Missions	(San Diego Padres)	dinals	(St. Louis Cardinals)
2008	Arkansas Travelers	(Los Angeles Angels)	Frisco RoughRiders	(Texas Rangers)
2009	RockHounds	(Oakland A's)	NW Arkansas Naturals	(Kansas City Royals)
2010	NW Arkansas Naturals	(Kansas City Royals)	RockHounds	(Oakland A's)
2011	San Antonio Missions	(San Diego Padres)	Arkansas Travelers	(Los Angeles Angels)
2012	dinals	(St. Louis Cardinals)	Frisco RoughRiders	(Texas Rangers)
2013	San Antonio Missions	(San Diego Padres)	Arkansas Travelers	(Los Angeles Angels)
2014	RockHounds	(Oakland A's)	Tulsa Drillers	(Colorado Rockies)
2015	RockHounds	(Oakland A's)	NW Arkansas Naturals	(Kansas City Royals)
2016	RockHounds	(Oakland A's)	NW Arkansas Naturals	(Kansas City Royals)
2017	RockHounds	(Oakland A's)	Tulsa Drillers	(Los Angeles Dodgers)
2018	Tulsa Drillers	(Los Angeles Dodgers)	San Antonio Missions	(San Diego Padres)
2019	Amarillo Sod Poodles	(San Diego Padres)	Tulsa Drillers	(Los Angeles Dodgers)

Texas League President **Tim Purpura** is in his fourth season as the TL's chief executive. Tim spent 14 seasons with Houston, eight as GM (a span that included the Astros' World Series appearance in 2005) and also served as Senior Director of Player Development for the Texas Rangers (2011-2013).

The **Amarillo Sod Poodles** showed a remarkable for the dramatic" as the Texas League returned to the Panhandle for the time in 37 years. The Sod Poodles won the half pennant on the half's last day ... rallied from an 0-2 to win the South Division Championship Series over the RockHounds ... and scored seven runs in the top of the ninth inning to defeat the Tulsa Drillers in decisive Game 5 of the Texas League Championship Series to win the league title.

The **Tulsa Drillers'** 2018 TL championship was "book-ended" by a pair of heartbreaking defeats in the title series (in 2017, the RockHounds erased an 0-2 to defeat the Drillers, capping the "Four-Peat"). In the Texas League's more than 130-year history, only two teams (Fort Worth in the 1920's and the RockHounds) have won three (or more) consecutive outright titles. In short, the Drillers came within two runs (2017) and one inning (2019) of becoming the third.



## San Diego Padres

### Top 30 Prospects

Baseball America

- MacKenzie Gore LHP
- Luis Patino RHP
- CJ Abrams SS
- Taylor Trammell OF
- Luis Campusano C
- Adrian Morejon LHP
- Andres Muñoz RHP
- Michel Baez RHP
- Gabriel Arias SS
- Ryan Weathers LHP
- Joey Cantillo LHP
- Owen Miller SS/2B
- Ronald Bolaños RHP
- Reggie Lawson RHP
- Jake Cronenworth SS/RHP
- Hudson Potts 3B
- Edward Oliveras OF
- Tucupita Marcano INF
- Blake Hunt C
- Hudson Head OF
- Reggie Preciado SS
- Joshua Mears OF
- Javy Guerra RHP
- Jeisson Rosario OF
- Tirso Ornelas OF
- Jorge Oña OF
- Logan Driscoll C
- Ismael Mena OF
- Eguy Rosario 2B/3B
- Lake Bachar RHP



## Amarillo Sod Poodles

Texas League Member Since 2019  
Padres 2019

### The Yard

Hodgetown  
Amarillo, Texas  
Opened: 2019 Seating Capacity 5,842

### Texas League Playoff History

Championships Two (1976, 2019)  
Prior to 2019, as the Amarillo Gold Sox:  
1981  
Last division championship 1976  
Last half-season pennant 1981

## Notecard

2020 Field Manager  
Phillip Wellman (5th season / SD / AA)

**Phillip Wellman** was named 2019 Texas League Manager of the Year for the second time after leading the Sod Poodles to the title (he also won the honor with San Antonio in 2017).

Amarillo's hitting coach has his own "chapter" in our franchise's history. **Raul Padron's** two-run HR in the top of the 12th inning (Game 4) was the series-winning swing as the RockHounds defeated NW Arkansas to win the 2009 Texas League title.

# Amarillo Sod Poodles





2010-11



J.D. Martinez

**Place Your Betts** The players pictured in the introduction to this section (page 13) are both MVP's. Former Tulsa Driller **Cody Bellinger** was the National League's Most Valuable Player in 2018 and former Arkansas Traveler **Mike Trout** would be the "MVP" and in "Most Valuable on the Planet" if such an award existed. Right behind Trout, **Mookie Betts** is widely considered among the top players in the game. His trade from the Red Sox to the Dodgers puts immense pressure on one Texas League alum and opens a huge door for another in Boston. **J.D. Martinez** is certainly capable of putting huge numbers - - the former Corpus Christi Hook (who was waived by the Astros) has averaged 37 HR & 102 RBI for the last five seasons. **Alex Verdugo** ... Cody Bellinger's 2016 teammate in Tulsa ... Is a highly-regarded prospect acquired by the BoSox in the "Mookie deal." Suffice to say, he has some big time shoes to fill at Fenway Park.



2016



Alex Verdugo



# Arkansas Travelers

## Seattle Mariners

### Top 30 Prospects

Baseball America

- |                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. Julio Rodriguez     | OF    |
| 2. Jarred Kelenic      | OF    |
| 3. Evan White          | 1B    |
| 4. Logan Gilbert       | RHP   |
| 5. George Kirby        | RHP   |
| 6. Noelvi Marte        | SS    |
| 7. Justus              | LHP   |
| 8. Justin Dunn         | RHP   |
| 9. Brandon Williamson  | LHP   |
| 10. Kyle Lewis         | OF    |
| 11. Jake Fraley        | OF    |
| 12. Cal Raleigh        | C     |
| 13. Isaiah Campbell    | RHP   |
| 14. Juan Then          | RHP   |
| 15. Austin Shenton     | 1B    |
| 16. Milkar Perez       | 3B    |
| 17. Dom T'son-Williams | OF    |
| 18. Sam Delaplane      | RHP   |
| 19. Braden Bishop      | OF    |
| 20. Jose Corniel       | RHP   |
| 21. Sam Carlson        | RHP   |
| 22. Aaron Fletcher     | LHP   |
| 23. Joey Gerber        | RHP   |
| 24. Wyatt Mills        | RHP   |
| 25. Jonatan Clase      | OF    |
| 26. Juan Querecuto     | SS    |
| 27. Donnie Walton      | 2B/SS |
| 28. Anthony Misiewicz  | LHP   |
| 29. Penn Murfee        | RHP   |
| 30. Yeury Tatz         | RHP   |



DOUBLE-A AFFILIATE  
OF THE  
SEATTLE MARINERS



## Arkansas Travelers

Texas League Member Since 1966  
Mariners 2017

### The Yard

Dickey-Stephens Park  
North Little Rock, Arkansas  
Opened: 2007 Seating Capacity 5,842

### Texas League Playoff History

Texas League Championships	Eight
Most Recent	2008
	2019
Last division championship	2013
Last half-season pennant	2019

## Notecard

2020 Field Manager  
Dave Berg (1st season)

Before the Mariners, the Travs were with the St. Louis Cardinals for 35 years (1966-2000) and the Los Angeles Angels for 16 (2001-16).

The Angels era included a Texas League championship match-up (a tremendous series) versus the RockHounds (2005). The "Halos" era also included an appearance by a future Hall of Famer - **Mike Trout** played for the Travs in 2011.

## Houston Astros

### Top 30 Prospects

Baseball America

- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Forrest Whitely      | RHP |
| 2. Jose Urquidy         | RHP |
| 3. Jeremy Peña          | SS  |
| 4. Freudis Nova         | SS  |
| 5. Bryan Abreu          | RHP |
| 6. Abraham Toro         | 3B  |
| 7. Korey Lee            | C   |
| 8. Christian Javier     | RHP |
| 9. Hunter Brown         | RHP |
| 10. Grae Kessinger      | SS  |
| 11. Tyler Ivey          | RHP |
| 12. Jordan Brewer       | OF  |
| 13. Luis Garcia         | RHP |
| 14. Jairo Solis         | RHP |
| 15. Brandon Bielak      | RHP |
| 16. Colin Barber        | OF  |
| 17. Jojane Torres       | RHP |
| 18. Jose Alberto Rivera | RHP |
| 19. Shawn Dubin         | RHP |
| 20. Jairo Lopez         | RHP |
| 21. Brett Conine        | RHP |
| 22. Blair Henley        | RHP |
| 23. Nivaldo Rodriguez   | RHP |
| 24. Garrett Stubbs      | C   |
| 25. Peter Solomon       | RHP |
| 26. Rogelio Armenteros  | RHP |
| 27. Austin Hansen       | RHP |
| 28. Enoli Paredes       | RHP |
| 29. Dauri Lorenzo       | SS  |
| 30. Chandler Taylor     | OF  |



DOUBLE-A AFFILIATE  
OF THE  
HOUSTON ASTROS



## Corpus Christi Hooks

Texas League Member Since 2005  
Astros 2005

### The Yard

Whataburger Field  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
Opened: 2005 Seating Capacity 5,362

### Texas League Playoff History

Championships	One (2006)
Previous franchise won TL title in	1958
	2018
Last division championship	2006
Last half-season pennant	2018 (sweep)

## Notecard

2020 Field Manager  
Gregorio Petit (1st season)

**Gregorio Petit** is a former Major Leaguer and a former RockHound. He played here in 2007, hitting .306 and displaying his stunningly good defensive skills (SS / 2B) on his way to six seasons in MLB (A's, Astros, Yankees, Angels & Twins).

His assignment to manage at the AA level for the Astros is remarkable in or coaching assignment at any level.

# Corpus Christi Hooks



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Jack Flaherty



## Twin Sons of Different Barbers

When **Jack Flaherty** pitched for Springfield ('17), he wasn't on the Cardinals' top 10 prospect list (to be fair, he was # 11). In 10 AA starts, he went 7-2, with a 1.42 ERA and was in The Show in St. Louis by the end of the season. Jack posted a 2.75 ERA in 2019 and was named to the All-MLB Second Team. **Josh Hader** was traded twice (the Orioles & Astros had him) before landing in Milwaukee, where he is the two-time reigning National League Reliever of the Year. In those two seasons, he has struck out 281 batters ... in 151 innings! Guess it's no fun facing a 98-mph fastball with "that hair" as the backdrop. Their hairstyles may be a "barbershop 180," but the former Hook and Springfield Redbird are two of the best on the hill.



2014-15

Josh Hader







2014



Max Muncy

## Hollywood Co-Stars

How good can **Gavin Lux** be? Although he played in just 29 big league games as a rookie in 2019 and the Dodgers refused to include in any of the Mookie Betts trade proposals. That's high praise. Another Tulsa Driller alum, Gavin will share the infield at Chavez Ravine with a guy whose career turnaround really is the "stuff of Hollywood." In spring, 2017, **Max Muncy** didn't have a job ... at any level of baseball ... and was just hoping for a call, perhaps from an independent club. Instead, it was the Dodgers with an offer to AAA. He was in The Show by 2018 ... hit 35 HR ... and hit 35 more in 2019 (with a combined 177 RBI). Two years after fearing his career was over, the former RockHound who was hoping for no more than a chance at independent ball has spent his last two Octobers playing for the Los Angeles Dodgers ... in the World Series.



Gavin Lux



2018-19



# Frisco RoughRiders

## Texas Rangers

### Top 30 Prospects

Baseball America

1. Josh Jung	3B
2. Sam K	C
3. Leodys Taveras	OF
4. Nick Solak	2B/OF
5. Maximo Acosta	SS
6. Hans Crouse	RHP
7. Joe Palumbo	LHP
8. Luisangel Acuña	SS
9. Bayron Lora	OF
10. Ronny Henriquez	RHP
11. Sherten Apostel	3B
12. Ricky Vanasco	RHP
13. Osleivis Basabe	SS
14. Cole Winn	RHP
15. Davis Wendzel	3B
16. DeMarcus Evans	RHP
17. Jonathan Hernandez	RHP
18. Anderson Tejeda	SS
19. Ryan Garcia	RHP
20. Heriberto Hernandez	OF/1B/C
21. Brock Burke	LHP
22. Steele Walker	OF
23. Bubba Thompson	OF
24. David Garcia	C
25. Keithron Moss	2B/3B
26. Randy Florentino	C
27. Julio Pablo Martinez	OF
28. Taylor Hearn	LHP
29. Zion Bannister	OF
30. Tyler Phillips	RHP



DOUBLE-A AFFILIATE  
OF THE  
TEXAS RANGERS



## Frisco RoughRiders

Texas League Member Since 2003  
Rangers 2003

### The Yard

Dr Pepper Ballpark  
Frisco, Texas  
Opened: 2003 Seating Capacity 10,216

### Texas League Playoff History

Championships One (2004)  
(Longest current title "drought" in the TL)  
2014  
Last division championship 2012  
Last half-season pennant 2014 (sweep)

## Notecard

2020 Field Manager  
Bobby Wilson (1st season)

Texas League championships aren't easy to come by ... our franchise waited 34 years for the and now has six titles in the last 15 (!).

Frisco's only TL title came in 2004. At that time, the RoughRiders were in the East Division and the El Paso Diablos and Wichita Wranglers were both in the league (El Paso became the Cardinals in '06 and the Wranglers became the Northwest Arkansas Naturals two years later).

## Kansas City Royals

### Top 30 Prospects

Baseball America

1. Bobby Witt, Jr.	SS
2. Daniel Lynch	LHP
3. Jackson Kowar	RHP
4. Brady Singer	RHP
5. Kyle Isbel	OF
6. Erick Peña	OF
7. Khalil Lee	OF
8. Kris Bubic	LHP
9. Austin Cox	LHP
10. Nick Pratto	1B
11. Jonathan Bownan	RHP
12. M.J. Melendez	C
13. Jeison Guzman	SS
14. Carlos Hernandez	RHP
15. Zach Haake	RHP
16. Seuly Matias	OF
17. Brady McConnell	SS
18. Kelvin Gutierrez	3B
19. Brewer Hicklen	OF
20. Yefri Del Rosario	RHP
21. Daniel Tillo	LHP
22. Jon Heasley	RHP
23. Alec Marsh	RHP
24. Richard Lovelady	LHP
25. Josh Staumont	RHP
26. Nick Heath	OF
27. Michael Gigliotti	OF
28. Evan Steele	LHP
29. Foster	LHP
30. Yohanse Morel	RHP



DOUBLE-A AFFILIATE  
OF THE  
KANSAS CITY ROYALS



## NW Arkansas Naturals

Texas League Member Since 2008  
Royals 1995  
(Franchise was then in Wichita, Kansas)

### The Yard

Arvest Ballpark  
Springdale, Arkansas  
Opened: 2008 Seating Capacity 6,500

### Texas League Playoff History

Championships One (2010)  
2016  
Last division championship 2016  
Last half-season pennant 2016

## Notecard

2020 Field Manager  
Scott Thorman (1st season)

The Naturals' Royals is the longest-tenured partnership in the league (it dates back to 1995 when the franchise was located in Wichita, Kansas).

The Naturals and RockHounds have met for the Texas League title four times in the last 11 seasons. The RockHounds won the crown in 2009, 2015 and 2016 while NW Arkansas (powered by Eric Hosmer, among others), took home the title in 2010.

# NW Arkansas Naturals





## High School Yearbook & A Wrangler Wrelic

**Nolan Arenado** was a Tulsa Driller during the Rockies affiliation. A product El Toro High School (South Orange County, California), he is a five-time All-Star with seven Gold and three Platinum Gloves and has been named by Wilson as the best defender in all of Major League Baseball three times. The only third baseman who might be as good was on that same high school team! Former RockHound Matt Chapman (two Gold Gloves, one Platinum and a Wilson Award in his first two full seasons) was a sophomore at El Toro ... and backed up Nolan, who was a senior. What are the odds on THAT???

**Zack Greinke** took a while to reach The Show, pitching twice (three years apart) for the Wichita Wranglers (now Northwest Arkansas). The journey was worthwhile - - now with the Astros, Zack has a Cy Young Award and passed 200 wins in 2019.





# Springfield Cardinals

## St. Louis Cardinals

### Top 30 Prospects

Baseball America

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Dylan Carson      | OF  |
| 2. Nolan Gorman      | 3B  |
| 3. Genesis Cabrera   | LHP |
| 4. Ryan Heisley      | RHP |
| 5. Ivan Herrera      | C   |
| 6. Zack Thompson     | LHP |
| 7. Andrew Knizner    | C   |
| 8. Lane Thomas       | OF  |
| 9. Elehuris Montero  | 3B  |
| 10. Randy Arozarena  | OF  |
| 11. Johan Oviedo     | RHP |
| 12. Junior Fernandez | RHP |
| 13. Jake Woodford    | RHP |
| 14. Jhon Torres      | OF  |
| 15. Julio Rodriguez  | C   |
| 16. Angel Rondon     | RHP |
| 17. Malcom Nunez     | 3B  |
| 18. Kodi Whitley     | RHP |
| 19. Justin Williams  | OF  |
| 20. Mateo Gil        | SS  |
| 21. Edmundo Sosa     | SS  |
| 22. Trejyn Fletcher  | OF  |
| 23. Tony Locey       | RHP |
| 24. Seth Elledge     | RHP |
| 25. Alvaro Seijas    | RHP |
| 26. Ramon Urias      | 2B  |
| 27. Roberts          | RHP |
| 28. Luken Baker      | 1B  |
| 29. Justin Toerner   | OF  |
| 30. Connor Jones     | RHP |



DOUBLE-A AFFILIATE  
OF THE  
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



## Springfield Cardinals

Texas League Member Since 2005  
Cardinals 2005

### The Yard

Hammons Field

Opened: 2004 Seating Capacity 6,750

### Texas League Playoff History

Championships	One (2012)
2016	
Last division championship	2012
Last half-season pennant	2016

## Notecard

2020 Field Manager  
Joe Kruzel (2nd season)

The franchise is owned and operated by its Major League parent club, the S. Louis Cardinals.

A "Totally Useless But Still Cool" fact:

is the only (current) Texas League team the RockHounds have never faced in the last postseason meeting between the franchises came in 1991, when the RockHounds were still the "Angels" and the Cardinals were still the El Paso Diablos!

## Los Angeles Dodgers

### Top 30 Prospects

Baseball America

- |                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Gavin Lux         | SS/2B |
| 2. Dustin May        | RHP   |
| 3. Keibert Ruiz      | C     |
| 4. Tony Gonsolin     | RHP   |
| 5. Josiah Gray       | RHP   |
| 6. Jeter Downs       | SS/2B |
| 7. Diego Cartaya     | C     |
| 8. Kody Hoes         | 3B    |
| 9. Michael Busch     | 2B/1B |
| 10. Luis Rodriguez   | OF    |
| 11. Dennis Santana   | RHP   |
| 12. Mitchell White   | RHP   |
| 13. Edwin Rios       | 3B/1B |
| 14. D.J. Peters      | OF    |
| 15. Connor Wong      | C     |
| 16. Cristian Santana | 3B    |
| 17. Omar Estevez     | 2B/SS |
| 18. Edwin Uceta      | RHP   |
| 19. Devin Mann       | 2B/3B |
| 20. Jacob Amaya      | SS    |
| 21. Zach McKinstry   | 2B    |
| 22. Miguel Vargas    | 3B    |
| 23. Andy Pages       | OF    |
| 24. Jimmy Lewis      | RHP   |
| 25. Andre Jackson    | RHP   |
| 26. Alex De Jesus    | SS    |
| 27. Gerardo Carrillo | RHP   |
| 28. Ryan Pepiot      | RHP   |
| 29. Robinson Ortiz   | LHP   |
| 30. Victor Gonzalez  | LHP   |



DOUBLE-A AFFILIATE  
OF THE  
LOS ANGELES DODGERS



## Tulsa Drillers

Texas League Member Since 1977  
Dodgers 2015

### The Yard

ONEOK Field  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Opened: 2010 Seating Capacity 7,833

### Texas League Playoff History

Texas League Championships	Nine
Most Recent	2018
2019	
Last division championship	2019
Last half-season pennant	2019

## Notecard

2020 Field Manager  
Scott Hennessey (3rd full season)

Drillers manager **Scott Hennessey** took over midway through the 2017 season (when Ryan Garko resigned) and the result has been remarkable.

In that time, the Drillers have won three consecutive North Division championships ... captured their Texas League championship since 1999 (defeating San Antonio in 2018) ... and very nearly became the third team in the league's 130-year history to win three straight outright titles

# Tulsa Drillers



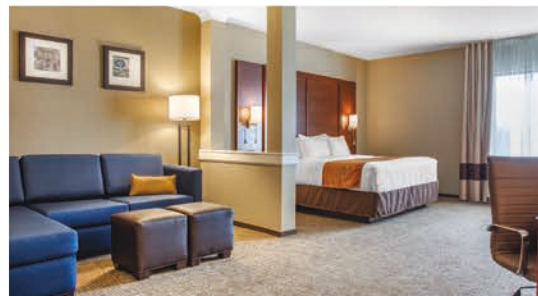
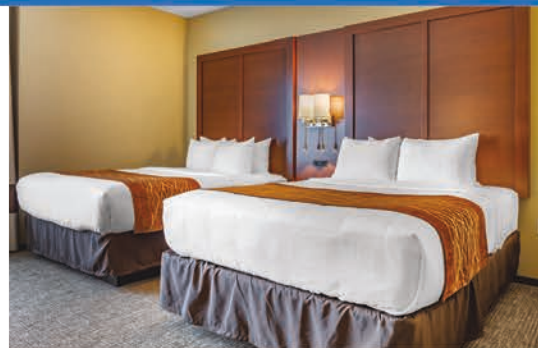
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# Down On The FArm

OAKLAND A's  
ORGANIZATION



BILLY BEANE



DAVID FORST



BOB MELVIN

**Executive Vice President of  
Baseball Operations**  
Billy Beane

**General Manager**  
David Forst

**Special Assistant to GM**  
Grady Fuson

## Field Staff

**Manager**  
Bob Melvin

**Bench Coach**  
Ryan Christenson (\*)

**Hitting Coach**  
Darren Bush (\*)

**Assistant Hitting Coach**  
Eric Martins (\*)

**Pitching Coach**  
Scott Emerson (\*)

**1st Base Coach**  
Mike Aldrete

**3rd Base Coach**  
Al Pedrique

**Bullpen Coach**  
Marcus Jensen

**Quality Control Coach**  
Mark Kotsay

**Bullpen Catcher**  
Philip Pohl (\*)

**Bullpen Catcher**  
Dustin Hughes

## Player Development

**Dir. of Minor League Operations**  
Zak Basch

**Director of Player Development**  
Ed Sprague

**Arizona Field Coordinator**  
Aaron Nieckula (\*)

**Special Advisor to  
Player Development**  
Keith Lieppman



## Las Vegas Aviators

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Fran Riordan (\*)  
Rick Rodriguez  
Todd Steverson (\*)  
Hiram Bocachica  
Brad LaRosa  
Justin Whitehouse (\*)  
Matt Rutledge (\*)

MILB.COM/LASVEGAS

**Manager**  
**Pitching Coach**  
**Hitting Coach**  
**Coach**  
**Athletic Trainer**  
**Assistant A.T.**  
**Strength Coach**

## RockHounds

MIDLAND, TEXAS

Scott Steinmann  
Steve Connelly  
Tommy Everidge (+)  
Juan Dilone  
Shane Zdebiak

Matt Mosiman

MIDLANDROCKHOUNDS.ORG



## Beloit Snappers

BELOIT, WISCONSIN

Lloyd Turner (+)  
Don Schulze (\*)  
Javier Godard  
Craig Conklin  
Brian Thorson (\*)  
Kevin Guild

SNAPPERSBASEBALL.COM



## Stockton Ports

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

Bobby Crosby (\*) (+)  
Chris Smith  
Brian McArn (\*)  
Javier Herrera (+)  
Nick Voelker  
Henry Torres (\*)

STOCKTONPORTS.COM

**Manager**  
**Pitching Coach**  
**Hitting Coach**  
**Coach**  
**Athletic Trainer**  
**Strength Coach**



## Vermont Lake Monsters

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Rick Magnante  
Carlos Chavez  
Francisco Santana  
Anthony Phillips  
Toshiaki Nagahara  
Connor Hughes

VERMONTLAKEMONSTERS.COM

**Manager**  
**Pitching Coach**  
**Hitting Coach**  
**Coach**  
**Athletic Trainer**  
**Strength Coach**

## Arizona A's Green & Gold

MESA, ARIZONA

Former RockHound  
player, coach and  
manager Webster  
Garrison (1999-2014)  
will manage one  
of the A's Arizona  
League clubs in 2020.



(\*) = RockHounds Field Staff Alum

(+) = Former RockHounds Player



Ryan Christenson led the RockHounds to the Texas League championship in 2015 & 2016 (above, left, part of the "Four-Peat"). He joined Bob Melvin's Major League staff in 2018 and is now one of four RockHounds "alums" serving on the A's staff. Hitting coach Darren Bush (RockHounds, 2009-10) and pitching coach Scott Emerson (2007-10) joined the A's staff in 2013 and 2015, respectively, and Eric Martins (RockHounds, 2015) is the newest addition to the staff in The Show.





# Suddenlink steps up to the plate.

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# The Crystal Ball

OAKLAND A's PROSPECTUS

## Oakland A's Top 30 Prospects

AS RATED BY

Baseball America  
PROSPECT HANDBOOK



MLB.COM



## A's Prospects Best Tools

AS RATED BY BASEBALL AMERICA

Best Hitter for Average	Sheldon Neuse
Best Power Hitter	Seth Brown
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Alonso Rivas
Fastest Baserunner	Jorge Mateo
Best Athlete	Jorge Mateo
Best Fastball	A. J. Puk
Best Curveball	Miguel Romero
Best Slider	Richard Gausch
Best Changeup	Jesus Luzardo
Best Control	Daulton
Best Defensive Catcher	Sean Murphy
Best Defensive Arm	Nick Allen
Best Defensive Arm	Jeremy Eierman
Best Defensive Arm	Luis Barrera
Best Defensive Arm	Austin Beck

- Jesus Luzardo LHP
- A.J. Puk LHP
- Sean Murphy C
- Daulton k RHP
- Austin Beck OF
- Robert Puason SS
- Sheldon Neuse 3B
- Jorge Mateo SS
- Logan Davidson SS
- Nick Allen SS
- Austin Allen C
- Lazaro Armenteros OF
- Skye Bolt OF
- James Kaprielian RHP
- Tyler Baum OF
- Greg Deichmann OF
- Grant Holmes RHP
- Jordan Diaz 3B
- Brayan Buelvas OF
- Marcus Smith OF
- Alfonso Rivas 1B
- Parker Dunshee RHP
- Luis Barrera OF
- Jonah Heim C
- Seth Brown 1B/OF
- Jeremy Eierman SS/2B
- Hogan Harris LHP
- Miguel Romero RHP
- Gus Varland RHP
- Kyle McCann C

- Jesus Luzardo LHP
- Sean Murphy C
- A.J. Puk LHP
- Robert Puason SS
- Nick Allen SS
- Sheldon Neuse 3B
- Jorge Mateo SS
- Logan Davidson SS
- Daulton k RHP
- Luis Barrera OF
- Jonah Heim C
- James Kaprielian RHP
- Jordan Diaz 3B
- Greg Deichmann OF
- Brayan Buelvas OF
- Grant Holmes RHP
- Skye Bolt OF
- Austin Beck OF
- Lazaro Armenteros OF
- Tyler Baum OF
- Marcus Smith OF
- Jeremy Eierman SS/2B
- Hogan Harris LHP
- Kyle McCann C
- Buddy Reed OF
- Brian Howard RHP
- Miguel Romero RHP
- Parker Dunshee RHP
- Gus Varland RHP
- Brady Feigl RHP



NICK ALLEN (L) AND AUSTIN BECK ARE TWO OF THE A's TOP 10 PROSPECTS ... A LIST HEADED BY THREE FORMER ROCKHOUNDS, INCLUDING JESUS LUZARDO (INSET, RIGHT)



# Lipp

The RockHounds / Oakland A's affiliation began in 1999. Two of the finest people we have come to know in those two decades are

**Keith Lieppman** and  
**Justin Whitehouse.**

Each is entering a new chapter in his baseball career.

*Keith was selected by Oakland in the second round of the 1971 draft ... and has been with the A's ever since ... 50 years.*

He was, by all accounts, one phone call away from a chance to play in the big leagues, but the call never came. Instead, he became a minor league manager on the A's farm in 1979 and became the director of that farm ... director of player development ... in 1992. He was in that role when the RockHounds became the A's AA affiliate in 1999 and would oversee generations of A's minor league (and future Major League) players through last season.

He will remain with the A's in the role of front office special adviser (Ed Sprague takes over as Oakland's farm director).

In 2019, "Lipp" was named winner of Baseball America's prestigious **Tony Gwynn Award**, a lifetime achievement honor recognizing greatest contributions to the game.

When baseball resumes, another honor awaits -- he will be inducted into the **Oakland Athletics Hall of Fame**.

We gathered this from several sources, and it just might be the perfect "Keith Lieppman story."

It's not clear whether or not he was supposed to "let the baseball cat out of the bag," but A's manager Bob Melvin did exactly that during his first Spring Training meeting with the team (just a few months ago), telling the entire club that "Lipp" would be inducted.

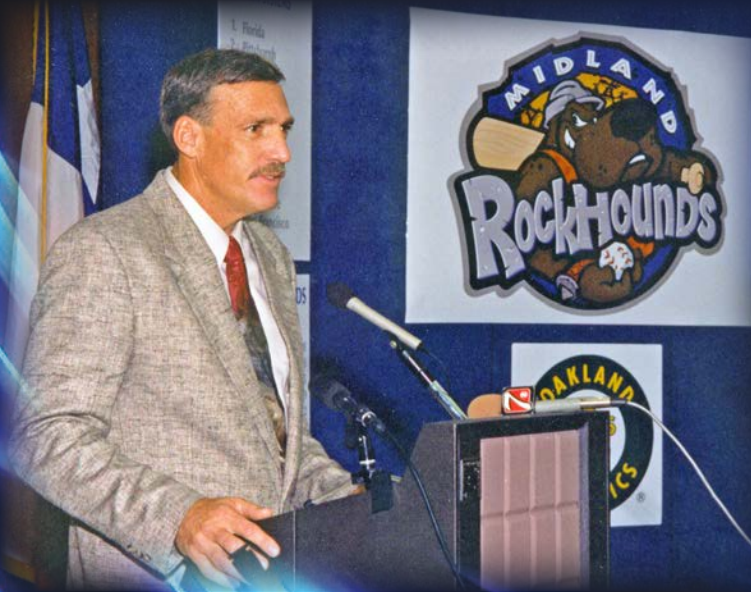
The reaction from a clubhouse full of big leaguers speaks volumes about the admiration, affection and the tremendous respect the guys have for Keith. Bob Melvin said *"I'd had rounds of applause in those meetings before, but nothing like that. It was deafening."*

The A's manager (and a three-time Manager of the Year) said Keith is "the most influential guy in Oakland A's history as far as player development."

In Bob Melvin's words ... Lipp *"touched so many of these guys in the organization ... and not just the players. The coaches, the managers."*

You can count Keith's friends with the RockHounds to that list.

Keith is pictured, left, at the 1999 press conference in which the affiliation with the Oakland A's was announced ... and the franchise's new nickname, the "RockHounds," was unveiled.





# Justin

The job of Athletic Trainer covers far more ground (figuratively and literally) at the minor league level than meets the eye.

*Justin Whitehouse came to the RockHounds in 2008 and served as the club's Athletic Trainer for 12 seasons (2008-19).*

*For the 2020 season ... his 20th with the Oakland A's organization ... he received a long-overdue promotion, becoming Assistant Athletic Trainer for the Las Vegas Aviators of the (AAA) Pacific Coast League.*

Overseeing the well-being of 25 professional baseball players is, in itself, more than a full-time job. In the Major Leagues, Director of Team Travel is a full-time job all its own; in the minors, it's added to the Athletic Trainer's "plate."



When the club travels, Justin's responsibilities also include ensuring a busload of equipment arrives at the clubhouse and to set up his "traveling training room" of equipment.

Anyone who hangs around minor league baseball for any length of time (as your humble editor has done for three decades) can testify to the tireless effort required, all while spending the better part of six months away from his home and family.

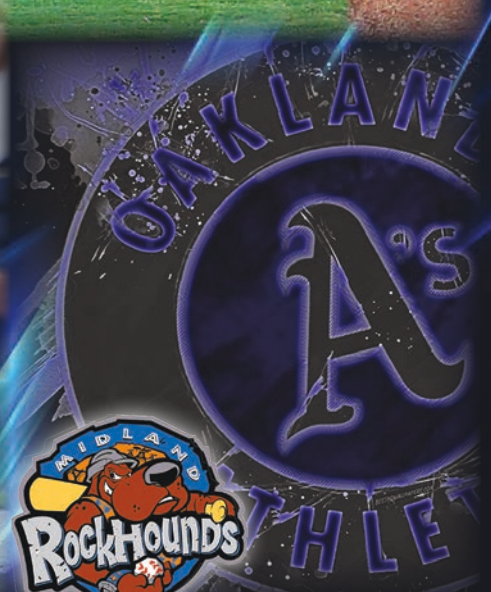
His dozen seasons included a "highlight reel" of the franchise's greatest on-field accomplishments:

- Six of the teams reached the postseason
- Five went on to become Texas League champions, including the Four-Peat (2014-2017)

*The odds of reaching The Show as an Athletic Trainer are much "longer" than those for a player. He is more than deserving of moving up, and the RockHounds have been remarkably fortunate to have had Justin as a member of the field staff and of our "family."*

Speaking of family ... Justin is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno and his wife, Susan, was inducted into the Wolf Pack Athletic Hall of fame in 2009 (swimming & diving), which makes his post with Las Vegas a little "closer to home."

*A (pretty cool) geographical sidebar -- in his 12 seasons here, Justin traveled more than 168,000 miles on the RockHounds' team bus (and that's just the destination-to-destination mileage, not including the daily in-town miles).*





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# RockHounds Field Staff



Manager **Scott Steinmann** is joined by pitching coach **Steve Connelly** and hitting coach **Tommy Everidge**. All three return for a third season with the 'Hounds after guiding the club to the T

New to the RockHounds are (coach) **Juan Dilone**, (athletic trainer) **Shane Zdebiak** and (strength and conditioning coach) **Matt Mosiman**.

Steinmann joined the Oakland organization in 2017 after spending 17 seasons as a coach and manager on the Seattle Mariners' farm. Both Connelly and Everidge joined the RockHounds in 2018 after spending two seasons (2016-17) with the Stockton Ports, Oakland'

Under "Steiny, Cons and T," the club came within one win of a half pennant in 2019 before capturing the second half Amarillo in the South Division Championship Series.

Dilone enters his 25th season with Oakland, the six as a player, and his 19th as a coach on the A's farm (he has been Beloit's hitting coach for six seasons). Both Zdebiak and Mosiman earned their promotions to the RockHounds and the Double-A level after spending multiple seasons with Stockton of the (Advanced-A) California League.

## Scott Steinmann Manager

"Steiny" came to the RockHounds in 2018 after one season with the Beloit Snappers, Oakland's in the (Single-A) Midwest League. The 2020 season marks his third with the RockHounds and fourth with the A's.

Through July of his season, the RockHounds were 47-61. *Since August 1 of 2018, the club has gone 94-76, narrowly missing a postseason berth in that season before reaching the in 2019.*

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Scott's playing career began with the Seattle Mariners, who signed him as a non-drafted free agent out of Miami University (Oxford, OH) on August 3, 1995. He played three seasons as a baseman and on the Mariners farm (1996-98), reaching the Double-A level in his third season, before being released in October of 1998.

He stayed with the Mariners organization, transitioning directly into coaching the following season (1999) as Seattle's roving catching instructor and, later, on the of the Everett AquaSox in the (Short-A) Northwest League. It would be the start of a 17-year stint with Mariners, during which time he served as a coach and manager at virtually every level of the club's minor league system. His tenure included nine managerial seasons, from the Rookie level up to Double-A, where he led the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx (Jackson, T

In 2005, he guided the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers to the (Single-A) Midwest League title series and, nine years later, his club in Clinton, Iowa, made a kind of history. Trailing the Bees, 17-1 (May 7 at Burlington, Iowa), the LumberKings rallied back with 19 unanswered runs for a remarkable 20-17 win, still

With the Mariners, he also served as a coach with Everett (1999, 2010 and 2012), Wisconsin (2000-01), San Bernardino (Advanced-A California League in 2002), Peoria (2006) and the Tacoma Rainiers of the (T

Before being named RockHounds manager, his Beloit club went 65-73 in the (Single-A) Midwest League in 2017.

Scott and his wife, Suzy, now make their home in Chandler, Arizona, with daughter, Alex, and son, Ben.

## Scott Steinmann Career Managerial Record

Year	Team	League	Class	1st H	2nd H	Season	Pct.	Finish	Overall	Playoffs
2003	Peoria Mariners	Arizona	R	14-10	15-9	29-19	.604	T-4 / 3rd	T-3 (9)	Did not qualify
2004	Peoria Mariners	Arizona	R	16-12	15-13	31-25	.554	T-2 / T-4	4th (9)	Did not qualify
2005	Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	Midwest	A	39-31	37-32	76-63	.547	1st / 1st	2nd (16)	League championship <sup>A</sup>
2007	High Desert Mavericks	California	Adv-A	31-39	23-47	54-86	.386	5th / 5th	10th (10)	Did not qualify
2008	West Tenn Diamond Jaxx	Southern	AA	41-29	29-39	70-68	.507	1st / 5th	5th (10)	Lea <sup>B</sup>
2009	Clinton LumberKings	Midwest	A	40-30	29-38	69-68	.504	T-2 / 6th	7th (14)	Did not qualify
2011	Peoria Mariners	Arizona	R	----	----	25-31	.446	2nd	9th (13)	Did not qualify
2014	Clinton LumberKings	Midwest	A	30-38	31-39	61-77	.442	T-6 / 6th	T-14 (16)	Did not qualify
2015	Clinton LumberKings	Midwest	A	26-43	20-50	46-93	.331	6th / 8th	14th (16)	Did not qualify
2017	Beloit Snappers	Midwest	A	32-37	33-36	65-73	.471	T-4 / 4th	11th (16)	Did not qualify
2018	RockHounds	Texas	AA	33-36	35-35	68-71	.489	3rd / 3rd	6th (8)	Did not qualify
2019	RockHounds	Texas	AA	33-36	35-35	68-71	.489	3rd / 3rd	6th (8)	Division Championship Series <sup>C</sup>

<sup>A</sup> 2005 Playoffs Defeated Clinton (2-games-to-0) in Midwest Lea  
Lost to South Bend (3-games-to-2) in Midwest League championship

<sup>B</sup> 2008 Playoffs Lost to Carolina (3-games-to-0) in Southern Lea

<sup>C</sup> 2019 Playoffs Lost to Amarillo (3-games-to-2) in Texas League South Division Championship Series



## Tommy Everidge Hitting Coach

Oakland's 10th round selection in the 2004 draft out of Sonoma State University (Rohnert Park, California), Tommy was promoted to the RockHounds (from Stockton) at the end of the 2007 season and spent the entire '08 season with the 'Hounds, earning a selection to the Texas League Postseason All-Star Team after leading the league with 115 RBI.

That total ranks all-time in franchise history and remains the most in the Security Bank Ballpark era (which began in 2002). Ten of his ribbies came in one game (May 26 at Tulsa), in which he went 4-for-6 with two home runs (one a grand slam). *In the Texas League's 130-year history, he remains one of just seven players to amass 10 (or more) RBI in a single game.*

Despite his outstanding production in 2008, the Bay Area native (Glen Ellen, California) found himself back with the RockHounds to open 2009. He responded by hitting .329 with 53 RBI in 55 games before receiving his promotion to Triple-A A's.

His coaching assignment with the A's came with (Short-A) Vermont in 2014 (along with Steve Connelly) and he spent two seasons with the New York-Penn League Lake Monsters. Now in his seventh season as a coach, he was promoted to the RockHounds after spending 2016 and 2017 with Stockton.





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## Steve Connelly *Pitching Coach*

When Steve joined the Oakland organization as pitching coach for the Vermont Lake Monsters (Short-A New York-Penn League), it brought his career "full circle." He had been selected by the A's in the 24th round of the 1995 draft (out of the University of Oklahoma) and went on to reach the Major Leagues in 1998, going 0-0, with a 1.93 earned run average, in three relief appearances with the A's.

Now entering his seventh season as a pitching coach on the A's farm, "Cons" spent one season with (Single-A) Beloit (2015) and two with Stockton (2016-17) before being promoted to the RockHounds in 2018.

Prior to returning to the A's as a pitching coach, he had served in the same capacity for three years (2011-13) at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

The Long Beach, California, native was originally drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1992 draft (25th round out of Woodrow Wilson HS in Long Beach) but elected, instead, to attend Oklahoma. At OU, he was a member of the 1994 College World Series championship club (the Sooners defeated a Georgia Tech team featuring future Major Leaguers Nomar Garciaparra, Jason Varitek & Jay Payton) and was drafted by the A's following his junior season in Norman.

After reaching the Show with Oakland in 1998, Steve his playing career (1999-2001, 2003) with the Fresno Grizzlies (San Francisco's Triple-A club).

*This stat was "lost in the of the club's run to the but Steve's 2019 RockHounds had the earned run average in franchise's 48-year history (3.92) and was the to post a strikeouts-to-walks ratio of more than three-to-one (3.02).*



SHANE ZDEBIAK



MATT MOSIMAN



JUAN DILONE

## Juan Dilone *Coach*

Juan's tenure with the Oakland organization dates back to 1990 when he was signed by the A's as a non-drafted free agent. He spent six seasons as a minor league and his career with (Advanced-A) Modesto in 1997. He returned in 2002 and now enters his 19th season as a coach / instructor on the A's farm, the last of those seasons as hitting coach with the Beloit Snappers of (Single-A) Midwest League.

A native of the Dominican Republic (he was born in Santo Domingo), "Dilo" and his family now make their home in Higuay, DR.

## Shane Zdebiak *Athletic Trainer*

Shane joins the RockHounds as the club's athletic trainer after three seasons (2017-19) in the same capacity with the Stockton Ports. Before coming to the A's, he was with the Seattle Mariners organization, serving as athletic trainer for the Clinton (Iowa) LumberKings in the (Single-A) Midwest League in 2016 and the Everett (Washington) Aqua Sox of the (Short-A) Northwest League in 2014 and 2015.

A native of Manitoba, Canada (born in Gimli, he now makes his home in Winnipeg) Shane began his pro baseball career as athletic trainer for the Winnipeg Goldeyes of the (independent) American Association and also spent two seasons in that role with the Steinbach Pistons of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in kinesiology from the University of Manitoba in 2009. He is as an athletic trainer through the National Athletic Trainers' Athletic Therapists' Association.

## Matt Mosiman *Strength & Conditioning Coach*

Matt also comes to the RockHounds from Stockton, where he has served as strength and conditioning coach for the Ports for the past two seasons after spending 2017 in the same role with Oakland's club in the Dominican Summer League.

Prior to joining the A's organization, he interned at the University of Notre Dame, New Mexico State University and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where he had earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees. A native of Oregon, Wisconsin, Matt makes his home in Stockton (California).

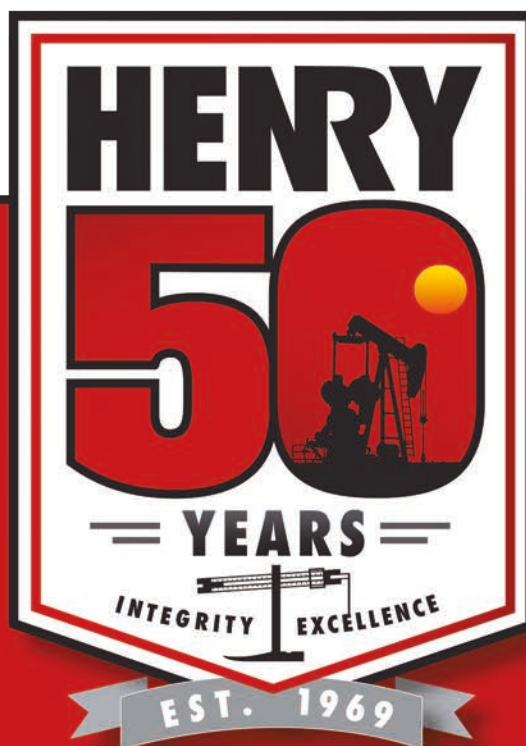
<i>RockHounds Field Staff Alumni</i>			<i>Is now ...</i>			
Darren Bush	Manager	2009-2010	Hitting Coach	Oakland A's	(MLB)	American League
Ryan Christenson	Manager	2015-2016	Bench Coach	Oakland A's	(MLB)	American League
Scott Emerson	Pitching Coach	2007-2010	Pitching Coach	Oakland A's	(MLB)	American League
Eric Martins	Hitting Coach	2015	Assistant Hitting Coach	Oakland A's	(MLB)	American League
Aaron Nieckula	Manager	2013-14	Arizona Field Coordinator		Oakland A's	
Gabe Ortiz	Player	2009-10	Minor League Catching Coordinator		Oakland A's	
Steve Scarsone	Manager	2011-2012			Oakland A's	
Fran Riordan	Manager	2017	Manager	Las Vegas Aviators	(OAK / AAA)	
Todd Stevenson	Manager	2007	Hitting Coach	Las Vegas Aviators	(OAK / AAA)	
Justin Whitehouse	Athletic Trainer	2007-2019	Assistant Athletic Trainer	Las Vegas Aviators	(OAK / AAA)	
Bobby Crosby	Player, Hitting Coach	2002, 2019	Manager	Stockton Ports	(OAK / Adv-A)	California League
Brian McArn	Hitting Coach	2004, 2013, 2016-17	Hitting Coach	Stockton Ports	(OAK / Adv-A)	California League
Lloyd Turner	Player	2005-06	Manager	Beloit Snappers	(OAK / A)	Midwest League
Don Schulze	Pitching Coach	2011-14, 2017	Pitching Coach	Beloit Snappers	(OAK / A)	Midwest League
Webster Garrison	Player, Coach, Manager	1999-2014	Manager	Arizona A's	(OAK / R)	Arizona League
Don Long	Manager (Angels)	1991-93, 1998	Hitting Coach	Baltimore Orioles	(MLB)	American League





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# Next GenerA tion



Each of the Oakland A's top four prospects ... per *Baseball America* ... is a RockHounds alum and you'll find each of them about 60 feet, six inches from the dish.





Among Webster's definitions for the word **prospect** are ...

- "... a likely candidate for a job or position"
- "... a mental picture of something to come"
- "... something that is awaited or expected"

MLB.com's Pipeline and Baseball America agree on the three top job candidates in Oakland:

**Jesus Luzardo & A.J. Puk**

And make no mistake, the A's have been "awaiting" with a very clear "mental picture" of putting these two left-handers in the rotation ... for some time.

Entering the 2019 season, Baseball America had the tandem ranked 1 & 2 on the A's farm. In the publication's *Prospect Handbook*, the scouting report made this bold statement, reading, in part:

***"Luzardo & Puk could give the A's a lethal 1-2 punch at the top of the rotation."***

The draft is, to the say the least, an "inexact science" and that's part of the reason A.J. is with Oakland. Baseball America rated him the # 85 prospect in the country out of high school in his home town of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but he wasn't selected until the 35th round (by Detroit) and elected to attend the University of Florida. After three sensational seasons with the Gators, he was expected to be one of the top players on the board in 2016. He was taken early, but because of an "inconsistent" spring, he fell "all the way" to # 6, where the A's were waiting (and probably thanking the baseball heavens for "inexact science").







### Just how talented is Jesus Luzardo?

The Washington Nationals selected him (out of high school in Parkland, Florida) in the third round of the 2016 June draft, with the full knowledge that he had undergone Tommy John surgery just three months earlier. Making his pro debut the following June (June 28, 2017), he appeared in just three Gulf Coast Rookie League games on the Nats' farm before being acquired by Oakland in a high-profile trade that sent (former RockHound) Sean Doolittle to Washington (see pages xx-xx). He spent more time with the RockHounds than at any other of his stops on the way to Oakland, going 7-3, with a 2.29 ERA in 16 astoundingly good starts.

We asked, in the headline, how good he can be? Baseball America says this about how much better he can get: "Luzardo's maturity, development have him tracking only to becoming stronger with an already-dangerous arsenal."

### The Arrival

A.J. Puk's recovery from Tommy John surgery included a brief (six games) return to the RockHounds in 2019 (he was a member of the 2017 Texas League championship club that capped the "Four-Peat") and, in all, he pitched just 25 innings before getting the call to Oakland.

A.J. made his Major League debut on August 21 and Jesus (slowed slightly by minor injuries in March and July) followed on September 11.

Jesus posted a 1.50 ERA (with two saves) in six games and A.J. a 3.18 in 10 appearances and each struck out more than a batter-per-inning. *Baseball America*, *MLB.com* ... and the A's ... think that was just the beginning.





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## Sean Murphy was a walk-on at Wright State University. A walk-on!

He was a Louisville Slugger All-American as a freshman ... selected by the A's in the third round of the 2016 draft after his junior year ... and is now the # 3 catching prospect in all of baseball.

"Murph" has also overcome a series of injuries but, as his track record suggests, he hasn't let the setbacks block his path to The Show.

"Sean Murphy is an elite defensive catcher thanks to his athleticism and agility. His maturity as a game-caller, blocking and framing all receive 'plus' grades, and his 'plus-plus' arm was one of the strongest in the minors. Murphy's leadership th his pitching staff draws rave reviews." So says *Baseball America*. Not bad for a "walk-on!"

### By the Numbers

Here's where the three former RockHounds, who rank 1-2-3 on the A's Top 10 list, are rated among prospects across all of Minor League Baseball (rankings according to MLB.com Pipeline)

#### Jesus Luzardo (A's # 1)

Overall Top 100 # 12  
Among LH Pitchers # 2

#### Sean Murphy (A's # 2)

Overall Top 100 # 33  
Among Catchers # 3

#### A. J. Puk (A's # 3)

Overall Top 100 # 60  
Among LH Pitchers # 7







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## 49 Innings pitched in seven YEARS?

Those were the combined totals ... entering the 2019 season ... for

**James Kaprielian**

**& Daulton Jefferies**

James was drafted in 2015 and Daulton in 2016, yet each had made just EIGHT appearances on the mound as a pro. All that changed in a season that saw two careers get back on track to The Show.



James Kaprielian and Daulton Jefferies are both California natives and each was a first-round draft choice. James was selected by the Yankees in 2015 out of UCLA (he came to the A's from New York in the Sonny Gray trade) and Daulton out of Cal in 2016.

Both opened 2019 with (Advanced-A) Stockton and for each, his '19 debut was just the ninth appearance of his pro career.

"Kap" spent the majority of his season with the Ports (a 4.47 ERA in 11 games), but he hit his stride with the RockHounds, posting a 1.63 ERA in seven games. Including a start with (AAA) Las Vegas, his comeback season ended with a 3.18 ERA in 19 games (68.0 innings).

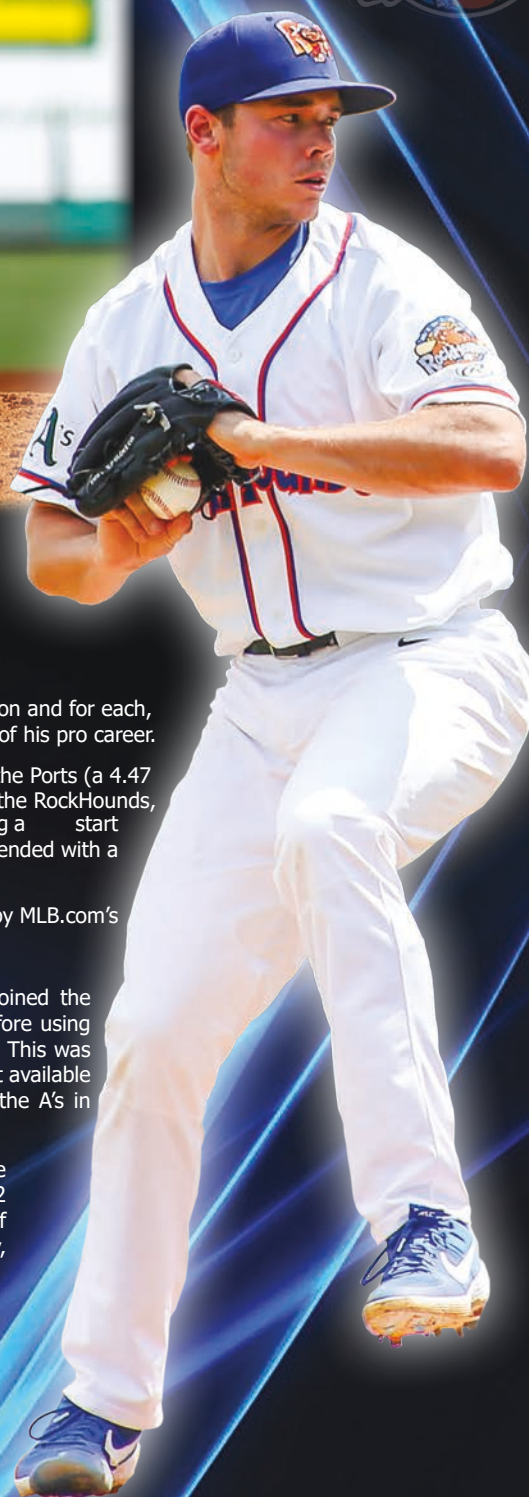
He enters 2020 rated the A's # 12 prospect by MLB.com's Pipeline and # 14 by *Baseball America*.

After five games with Stockton, Daulton joined the RockHounds and made 21 appearances before using up his allotment of innings for the season. This was bad news for the 'Hounds because he wasn't available for the play but spectacular news for the A's in that he pitched (virtually) the full season.

The number that absolutely JUMPS the stat sheet is command - - he struck out 72 batters in 64 innings ... and walked SEVEN. If the calculator on your cell phone isn't handy, that's a ridiculous 10-to-1 ratio!

Daulton's return earned him *Baseball America's* # 4 spot on the A's prospect list .... # 9 from the Pipeline ... and he was named the

**2019 A's Organizational Pitcher of the Year**







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As the song goes, "Don't You Forget About Me"



SEAN MANAEA

No, we're not suggesting anyone (least of all, the A's) has forgotten about **Sean Manaea** but the former RockHound (2015) was on the shelf for virtually a calendar year after undergoing shoulder surgery in September 2018. He joins Mike Fiers, Frankie Montas, Jesus Luzardo and A.J. Puk in a rotation that many think could be among the best in the Majors.

**Sheldon Neuse** is a third baseman by trade but there's a roadblock in his path at that position in Oakland (the "roadblock's" name is **Matt Chapman**). A move to second base is possible and his bat him a top 10 prospect.

**Jorge Mateo's** (astounding) speed, athleticism and ability to play multiple positions have him alongside Neuse on the A's prospect list.

Both Jorge and Sheldon played here in 2017 and helped the RockHounds capture the Texas League championship to complete the "Four-Peat."

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This former RockHounds' resume includes a no-hitter against the Boston Red Sox



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*Edwin Diaz had a breakthrough season in 2019, leading the Texas League in doubles (36) and extra-base hits (57) and finishing fourth in the league with 72 runs batted in.*






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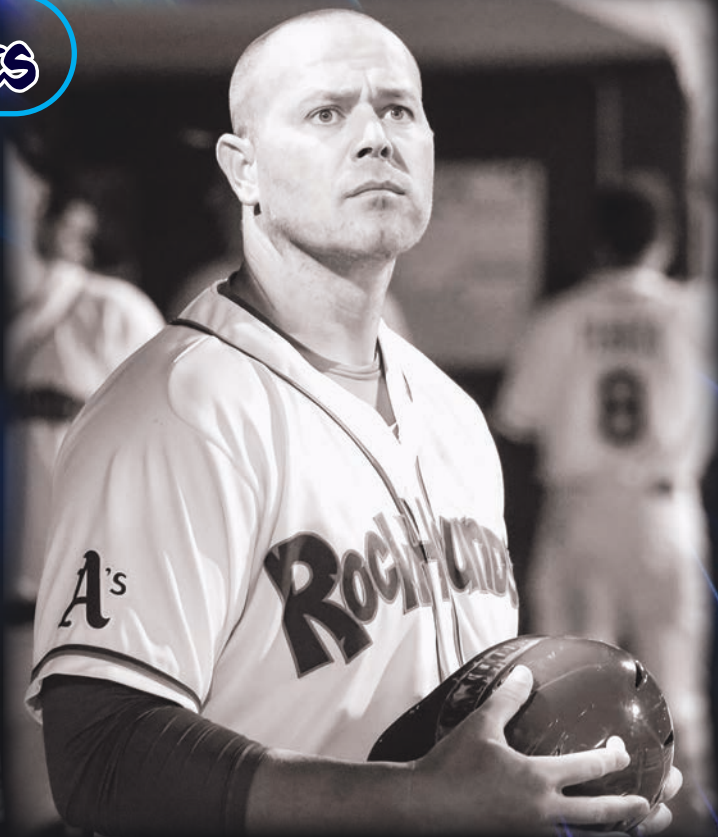
*Think catching a pop-up is easy? Try it sometime! Catcher Collin Theroux (left) shows you how it's done and left fielder Chase Calabuig (right) made the "tastiest" defensive play of 2019 ... a great grab, with cheese!*



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PHOTOGRAPHY



# RockHound SnapShots



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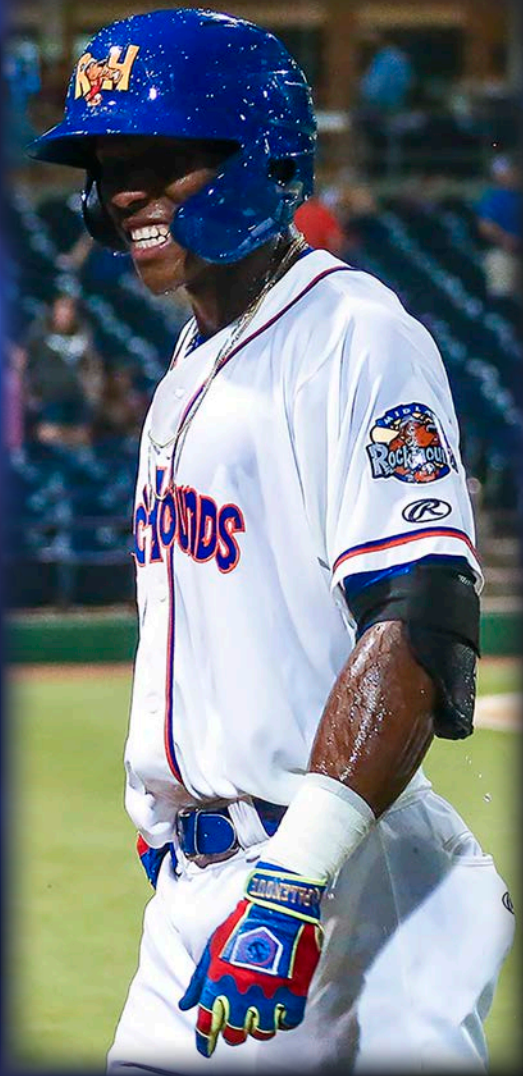
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How many umpires can you spot in this great shot from an early-season win over Amarillo? At least two "umpires in the stands" (most notably the gent in the (light blue shirt) have the play called correctly and a couple others are giving a long look. Home plate umpire Darius Ghani is about to make it official and if he took just a split-second longer to make the call ... he's actually doing his JOB!

danne' braden  
PHOTOGRAPHY





Abner Doubleday didn't see this one coming, but the **Powerade** bath has become a tradition.

**Dairon Blanco** (above) was a happy recipient.

**Brallan Perez** after "stalking his prey," delivers a direct hit ... a **splashdown** for the ages after a **Tyler Ramirez** walk-off.



 *danne braden*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





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(ON CHAPMAN & OLSON IN 2019)



"To have somebody like that, that's also not afraid to hang in there on tough throws, dig out throws, take balls up the line, not scared of contact, and on top of it, he's seven-feet-tall. I feel like I can throw the ball anywhere --- it gives me the confidence to just try and chuck balls over there because he can make so many good plays."

**Matt Chapman on Matt Olson** (Chappy was kidding, by the way ... Oly is really "only" 6'5").



"Olson ... could find himself in rarefied air, pulling off a combination that has been achieved by just four players in MLB history: 50 home runs AND a Gold Glove Award in the same season."

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	(1997 & 98)
Willie Mays	(1965)

*Thomas Harrigan  
MLB.com  
February 29, 2020*



# The Medal Metal Count

## Matt Olson

2018 American League Gold Glove

2019 American League Gold Glove

## Matt Chapman

2018 American League Gold Glove

2019 American League Gold Glove

2018 American League Platinum Glove -- top defensive player at any position in the AL

2018 Wilson Major League Baseball Defensive Player of the Year (Best Glove in The Show)



"The two Matts have built a relationship across the diamond that sprouted in the minors ... an undeniable chemistry ..."

JESSICA KLEINSCHMIDT  
NBC SPORTS BAY AREA



"We've just been on the same page pretty much since we've met.

"We get along with each other off the field and hang out, and we're card partners and all that, and on the field, we have the same mentality.

"We like to joke around and not take anything too seriously.

"But when we're in between the lines, it's game time." -- **Matt Olson**







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I'm hitting .300 with 40 homers next year – you can write that down.  
And if 34 homers and 36 doubles is going to be the worst year of my career,  
I'm going to be all right." - - Matt Chapman on his 2019 season





## "Chappy" was part of two Texas League championship clubs.

In 2014, he joined the RockHounds from (Single-A) Beloit on the last day of the regular season after third baseman Jeffry Marte was injured. Beloit's season had just ended so, with (Advanced-A) in the play Matt got a chance to "sample" the Double-A level well ahead of schedule.

He responded by leading the RockHounds to the of the "Four-Peat" titles, hitting .310, his astounding defensive skills and being named the Postseason MVP.

After spending 2015 in Stockton (and while Matt Olson was helping the 'Hounds win their second consecutive title), Chappy opened the '16 season here. He helped the club secure its third consecutive play berth and, although he was promoted (to AAA) before the postseason began, was named Texas League Player of the Year.

"Oly" hit 17 home runs with 75 RBI for the 2015 championship club, arguably the best team in franchise history (the 'Hounds went 83-57 under Ryan Christenson).



"He might be the most underrated player in the game."

DAVID SCHOENFIELD  
ESPN SENIOR WRITER  
ON MATT CHAPMAN







A Lamar Digital Displays advertisement. On the left, a circular inset shows a close-up of a baseball player's hand holding a baseball with the "LAMAR" brand name visible. The text "Play BALL!" is overlaid on this image. On the right, a digital scoreboard is shown on a grassy field. The scoreboard has two columns: "Midland" and "Odessa". The "Midland" column shows a score of 9 and the word "LOCATIONS" below it. The "Odessa" column shows a score of 6 and the word "LOCATIONS" below it. At the bottom, the "LAMAR" logo is displayed in a stylized font, followed by the text "DIGITAL DISPLAYS".

Play BALL!

Midland 9 LOCATIONS

Odessa 6 LOCATIONS

LAMAR DIGITAL DISPLAYS





NELSON CRUZ



# Twin Powers

Minnesota's lineup ... led by former RockHound Nelson Cruz ... was scary in 2019, leading all of Major League Baseball with 307 home runs.

With the addition of another former 'Hound (this one a former American League Most Valuable Player) ... they became even scarier.



JOSH DONALDSON



**"Patience and fortitude conquer all things."**

- - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Chances are, the great American philosopher and poet, Mr. Emerson, would be a fan of former Rockhound Nelson Cruz, who hit 14 home runs (some of them were astounding) in a half-season here in 2004. He reached the big leagues with the Milwaukee Brewers the following year and was traded to Texas shortly thereafter.

**In his first four big league seasons, combined, Nelson Cruz played in a total of 176 games and hit a total of 22 home runs.**

In 2009, the Rangers gave him the chance to play everyday. Hit hit 33 home runs.

**In 11 seasons since, he has hit 379 home runs, averaging 34½ per season, and has reached the 400-HR plateau** (see below).

He signed with Baltimore as a free agent and hit 40 homers for the time in his single season with the Orioles (2014).

From there he signed a major deal with Seattle, where sceptics said he couldn't possibly equal his totals from Baltimore. He didn't. He surpassed them, belting 163 homers in four seasons with the Mariners (averaging 41 per season).

In his with the Twins, the six-time American League All-Star ripped 41 homers with 108 RBI, leading Minnesota to 101 wins and the AL Central crown.

**Nelson Cruz had to wait ...  
and wait ... for his turn.**

**Josh Donaldson had to undergo  
a major transformation.**

**Their perseverance paid off ...  
to the tune of a combined  
550 home runs  
and an MVP trophy.**



**400 Home Runs  
... is rarefied air.**

Nelson Cruz is one of just four active players with 400 (or more career) HR entering the 2020 MLB season.

The others are **Edwin Encarnacion** (414), **Miguel Cabrera** (477) ... and **Albert Pujols**, whose 656 home runs rank sixth in Major League history.

No other active Major Leaguer has as many as 350 HR entering this season.

"Nellie" is one of just 57 hitters in the history of Major League Baseball to reach the 400-HR plateau.





ROCKHOUNDS, 2009



### These two photos reflect the amazing transformation of Josh Donaldson

The Cubs selected Josh (out of Auburn University) in the \_\_\_\_\_ round of the 2007 draft and he was named the top position prospect in the (Short-A) Northwest League ... and the Cubs' # 7 prospect ... as a catcher. Irony? His prospect status skyrocketed in part due to changing his position to catcher .... from third base. He traded to the A's and helped the RockHounds win the 2009 Texas League title, starting 102 games behind the plate and 15 at third base. The transformation had begun.

Oakland needed a third baseman and Josh seized the opportunity, becoming not just a Major League caliber player but one of the best third basemen in the game. He was traded to Toronto prior to the 2015 season and was named the American League's Most Valuable Player in his \_\_\_\_\_ year with the Blue Jays.

After battling injuries in 2018, he signed as a free agent with the Atlanta Braves (his favorite team as a kid) for the '19 season. In a \_\_\_\_\_ ent kind of transformation, he hit 37 home runs with 94 RBI for the NL East champion Braves and was named the National League Comeback Player of the Year.

The three-time All-Star ... former AL MVP ... and two-time Silver Slugger Award winner brings his bat, glove (and "rain") to a Twins lineup that had five 30-HR hitters last season.



## Minnesota Meteorology

The state gets plenty of snow, but the Twins are hoping for a different kind of precipitation by pairing former RockHounds Nelson Cruz & the "Bringer of Rain."







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# Nationals Treasure



## Sean Doolittle

✂ Kurt Suzuki have **five** things you ✂ I will never have:

- **Two** World Series Rings
- **One** World Series Save (\*)
- **One** World Series Home Run
- **One** hug from the President  
... of the United States

It didn't quite equal the Cubs or Red Sox, but two RockHound alums helped bring the first World Series title to the nation's capital since the Senators did it ... in 1924

(\*) Very cool: Sean saved Game 1 with "Zuk" catching!







**Sean Doolittle** is pictured, above, with the RockHounds in 2012. If you're wondering why he's playing base, it's because he was a base baseman (slash base at that time. Selected by the A's in the first round of the 2007 draft (out of the University of Virginia), Sean was a tremendous two-way player and there was always speculation he could pitch at the big league level. He was a top 10 prospect for Oakland as a position player (1B/OF), but was severely hampered by injuries. The decision was made to convert him to the mound and, eight seasons, a 3.02 ERA and 111 saves later, that decision was the right one. He had two tours of duty with the A's and is in his second stint with the Nationals. His return to the Nats came via trade, one that has benefited both of the clubs involved. Sean has been outstanding with Washington and one of the players the A's received in exchange for him from the Nats was **Jesus Luzardo**.



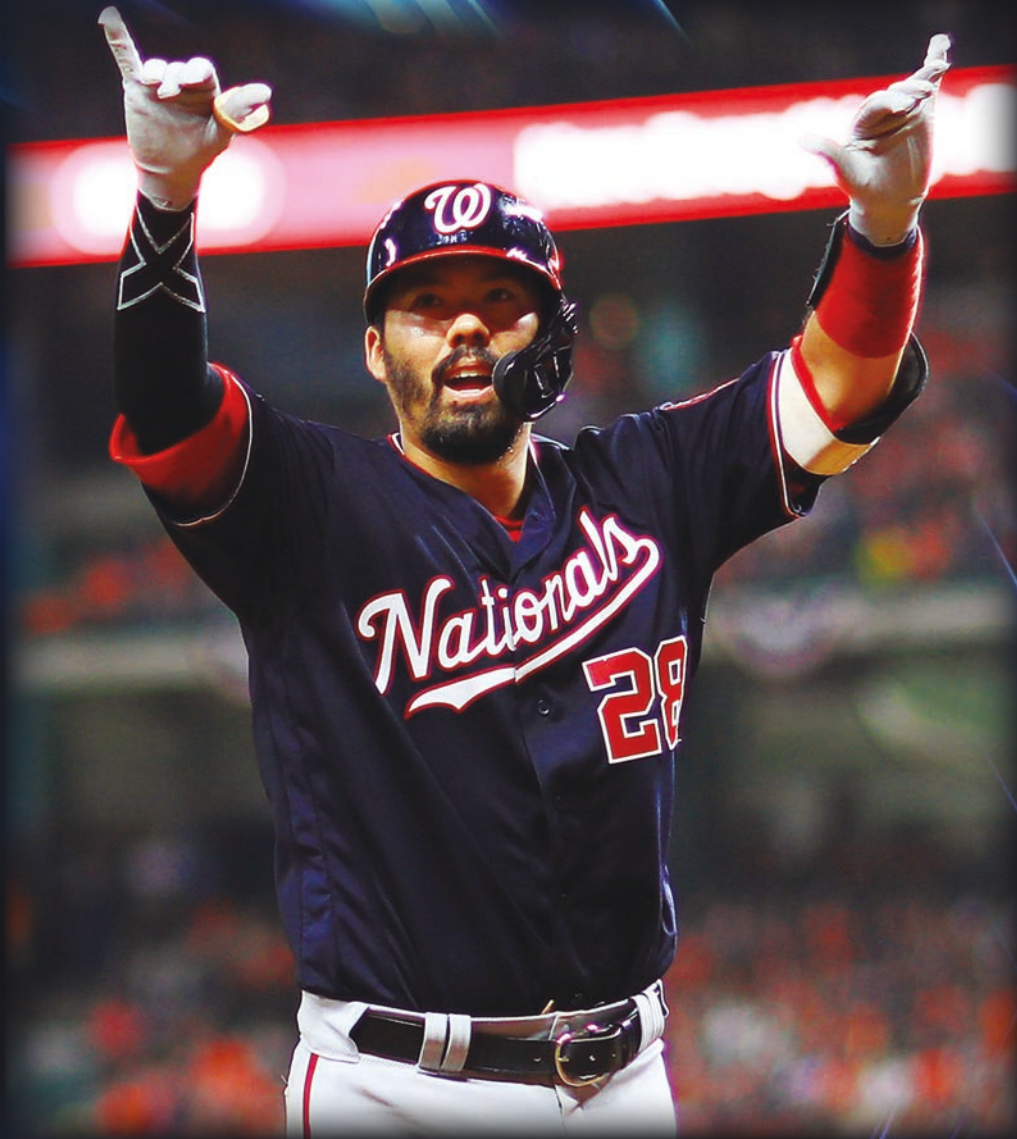




**Kurt Suzuki** won his first World Series title at Omaha, Nebraska, when Cal State Fullerton captured the 2003 national collegiate crown.

His second came in the 2019 Fall Classic with the Washington Nationals and this one was capped off with a visit ...

**to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.**



Kurt was a member of the 2006 RockHounds (above) after being selected by Oakland in the second round of the 2004 draft out of Cal State Fullerton, where he won a College World Series championship and was named recipient of the Johnny Bench Award as the nation's top collegiate catcher. He reached the big leagues with the A's in 2007 and was an All-Star selection with the Minnesota Twins in 2014. A hip or strain sidelined "Zuk" for much of the '19 Fall Classic, but not before he did what every kid who ever picked a ball, glove and bat dreams of doing - - he homered (in Game 2) in the World Series. A very cool sidebar - - K waii-born player to hit a home run in the Fall Classic (he was born and raised in Wailuku, Hawaii).

**His second "home run" of the postseason came at the White House, where his cap caught the attention of the Chief Executive.** Kurt said he was "just trying to have some fun" by wearing the MAGA cap. His "fun" earned him a presidential "best friend" and a photo op for the ages.







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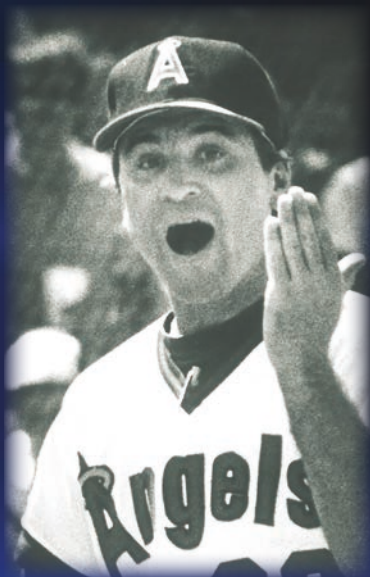
The advertisement has a dark blue background with dynamic light streaks. On the left, a soccer player in a white jersey with 'OXY' and 'M/O' logos is shown in action. On the right, another player in a blue and white jersey is kicking a soccer ball. In the center, the 'SOCKERS FC' logo is prominent, featuring a star and the text 'MIDLAND ODESSA'. Below it is the 'NPSSL NATIONAL PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE' logo. The text 'Until We Run With You Again' is written in a large, stylized, red script font across the middle. At the bottom left is a Twitter logo with the handle '@sockersfc09'. At the bottom center is a rounded button with 'sockersFC.org'. At the bottom right is the 'OXY' logo with the text 'Presented by' above it.



# Full Circle

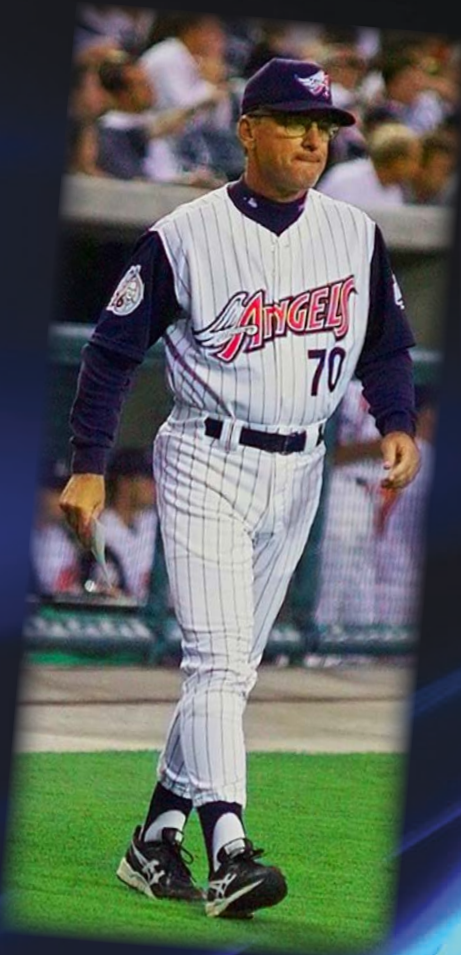


## Joe Maddon

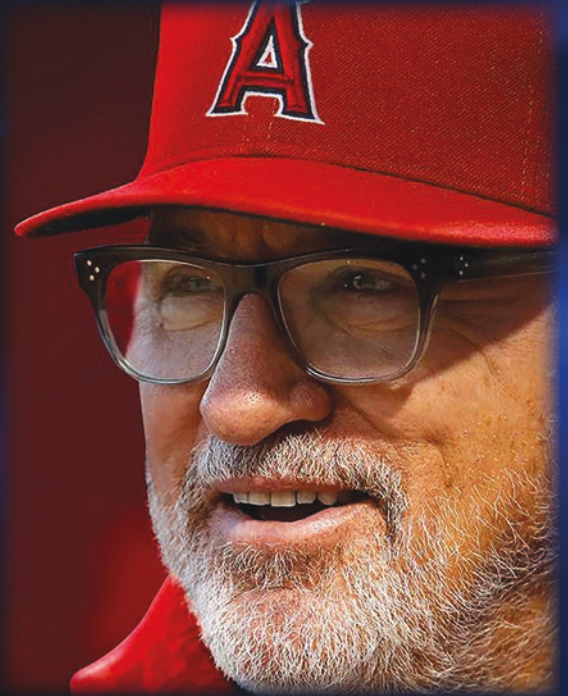


Joe put on an Angels uniform for the first time in 1976, as a player in the Midwest League.

Forty-four years later, he gets a third chance to manage the Angels ... but this time, the job is really his ... ALL his.







**FULL CIRCLE: JOE "DISCUSSING" A CALL HERE IN 1985 ... AND AS THE "PRODIGAL ANGEL" IN 2020**

**In 1985, after 13 seasons with the Cubs, our franchise changed affiliations and the California Angels became our Major League parent club. The first manager of that era was Joe Maddon.**

In terms of wins and losses, Joe's two Texas League seasons weren't much fun -- his clubs went a combined 121-148, which is the fourth-worst managerial winning percentage (.450) in franchise history. (Editor's note: SO sorry to bring that up, because the editor is a huge Joe Maddon fan and considers him on of the really good people in the game). Now ... where were we? Wins and losses notwithstanding, his time in West Texas was part of a remarkable journey.

In an interview held after he guided the Cubs to their World Series title in more than a century, Joes said **"the years prior to getting to this particular moment, whether it was managing in rookie ball, or A ball or Double-A, all the jobs, hitting coach, roving instructor, coordinator.**

When he took over here as manager in '85, Joe had already been a member of the Angels organization for a decade, and coaching. He would spent another two decades with the Halos, remaining in the minors until getting his call to The Show in 1995 (as bullpen coach). He went on to serve as base coach and, three times, was the interim big league manager. The Angels never ed him the full-time job, although the choice of Mike Scioscia certainly can't be faulted as he led the ANGels to their only World Series appearance (and title) in 2002. Joe was the bench coach for the Angels club that won the Fall Classic (see pages 100-103). He stayed on Mike Scioscia's through 2005 (the two are pictured, right) before get ty to manege full time in The Show.



**Joe waited 28 years for his first full-time shot at managing in The Show ... and he made the most of it.**

With a limited budget, and while competing in the brutally tough American League East, his Tampa Bay clubs went 754-705 ... including 627-508 over his last seven seasons. In his nine-season tenure, the Devi Rays / Rays won two AL East titles and made what remains the franchise's only appearance in the World Series (2008, falling to the Phildelphia Philllies, 4-1).



Joe once drew up the Rays batting order using an 80's pop song - - Tommy Tutone's 867-5309/Jenny. He is well known for that kind of creativity ... and for being one of the game's best tacticians.

There is another side to Joe that is, perhaps, best defined by "the story of the Angels cap."

When the Cubs broke one of the most celebrated droughts in sports history, winning the 2016 World Series, manager was seen wearing an Angels cap during the on-field celebration.

The cap belonged to Joe Maddon's dad (Joe, Sr.).

"He passed away in 2002, we won the World Series, and I've had his old Angel hat in my bag since then. So it goes everywhere." - - Joe

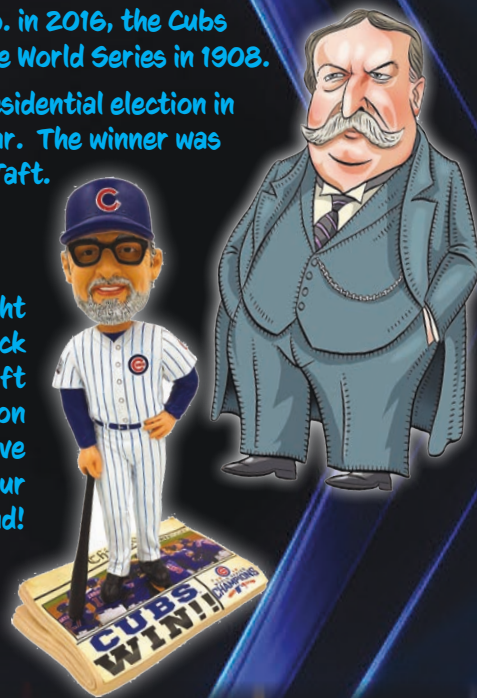
After a win in Game 5, the Cubs trailed the 2016 World Series (vs. Cleveland), 3-games-to-2.



Before Joe & Co. in 2016, the Cubs had last won the World Series in 1908.

There was a presidential election in the US that year. The winner was William Howad Taft.

Break a drought that dates back to the Taft administration and you have EARNED your bobblehead!



Before Game 6, Joe was asked about "omens."

"Omens, I don't know. I did see my dad's hat in my bag today. I carry my dad's hat with me. So the one thing I'm relying on today is my dad. I held onto his hat a little bit this morning, and that's probably an omen in a sense going into this game."

With a 9-3 win in Game 6, the Cubs forced a seventh game in the 2016 World Series, a game that was tied after nine innings and included the most historic rain delay in baseball history. The Cubs scored twice in the 10th inning and won, 8-7.

Joe later said ... "I put the cap in my back pocket in the tenth inning,"

At the moment pictured here, no one would have known Joe would return to the Angels, but perhaps the cap was an omen there, too. Full circle.







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# Mr. Smith Goes to Cooperstown



BAINES

SMITH

MARTINEZ

MUSSINA

RIVERA

HALLADAY



## The Cooperstown Class of '19 : 3 x 2

On July 21, 2019, the Baseball Hall of Fame inducted to two hitters, two starting pitchers and two failed starters. The latter success in the rotation ... their respective journeys to Cooperstown began in the bullpen. Mariano Rivera and Lee Smith combined to save 1,130 Major League games. Mariano, of course, is the all-time leader, closing 652 games (not to mention his amazing postseason dominance) and the former Midland Cub ranks third in big league history with 479 saves.

They entered the Hall alongside Edgar Martinez, Harold Baines, Mike Mussina and Roy Halladay (Halladay, the great Blue Jay and Phillie right-hander, passed away in 2017 and was represented at the induction ceremony by his wife, Brandy).

**Lee Smith earned place in Cooperstown with 478 MLB saves.**

**The first save of his professional career came in 1978 as a member of the Midland Cubs.**







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# Homecoming

In the minors, Lee Smith struggled as a starter ... posted a career ERA of nearly 5.00 ... walked more batters than he struck out ... and very nearly quit the game rather than accept a move to the bullpen.

Forty years later, he was sitting next to Mariano Rivera ... at Cooperstown.

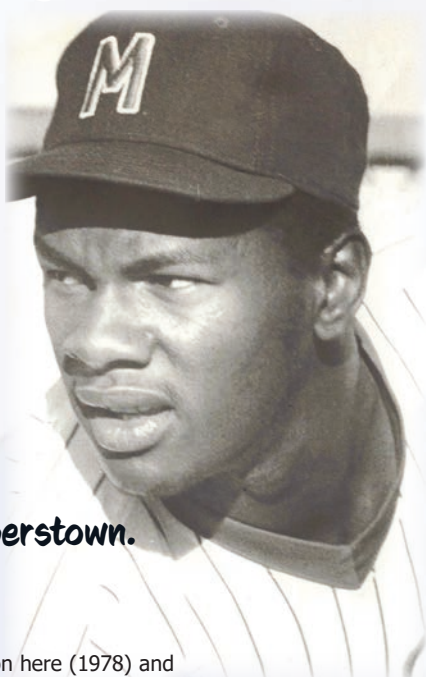
**Lee Smith had given up on baseball.**

He was just 20 years old in his season here (1978) and went 8-10, with a 5.98 earned run average as a starting pitcher for the Cubs. Manager Randy Hundley wanted to move the hard-throwing kid to the bullpen, but Lee resisted. In fact, he decided to leave pitching behind, instead giving college basketball a try (and he was a talented player) at Northwestern State University (in Natchitoches, Louisiana).

At some point between the 1978 and 1979 Texas League seasons Billy Williams, the great Chicago Cubs, convinced Lee to return to baseball, to West Texas, and to the Double-A Cubs. Exactly what Billy said has always stayed between the two men but, without that intervention, a Hall of Fame career might have ended before it began.

His 1979 season wasn't stellar, but the ERA dropped by a point (from 5.98 to 4.93), enough to warrant a promotion to (Triple-A) Wichita the following season and, ultimately, a September call-up to Chicago (1980, see below).

**There is one statistical note "for the ages" from Lee's otherwise forgettable 1978 season here. Of his 30 appearances, just came in relief but ... in one of**



**"Lee Smith is one of two relievers I never had to worry about, and the other is Mariano Rivera."**

--- JOE TORRE



WRIGLEY FIELD, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

## Homecoming, Part 1 / February 2012

Lee last pitched here, at age 21, in 1979. He returned 33 years later for a "homecoming" as keynote speaker for the RockHounds' 2012 Sports Banquet & Memorabilia Auction. He is pictured (below, right) at the event, alongside team owners Miles Prentice and Bob Richmond and general manager Monty Hoppel.

## Homecoming, Part 2 Wrigley Field September 1, 2019

On September 1, 1980, Lee Smith stepped onto a Major League pitcher's mound for the time. He was a September call-up with the Cubs and the "hill" was at Wrigley Field. Thirty-nine years later (to the day), the Cubs invited him back to the "friendly" this time not as a rookie, but as a Hall of Famer.



(L-R) MILES, LEE, BOB & MONTY AT THE 2012 SPORTS BANQUET





When the only two names above yours on an MLB "all-time" list are Mariano Rivera and Trevor Hoffman ... you're in elite company.

Before the arrivals of "Mo" and "Smith" was considered by many to be baseball's greatest closer. Pulitzer Prize-winning sportswriter Jim Murray called him as *"the best one-inning pitcher the game ever saw ... and the best at smuggling a game into the clubhouse in history."*

He had the pitches ... the persona ... and the look. That scowl. As teammate Jay Johnstone put it, "Hey, Lee, why bother washing your car? Just glare at it and the dirt will fall."

It's hard to imagine any Minor League franchise that can surpass (or even equal) that of the Cubs-Angels-RockHounds when it comes to producing great closers. Of the 30 members of the 300-Save Club (see right), five pitched here.

Like Lee Smith, **Roberto Hernandez** struggled as a starter before emerging as one of the top closers of his era (most notably with the White Sox).

**Troy Percival** might be the best "story" of all, drafted by the Angels (and playing one season in the minors) as a catcher before moving to the mound (and lived the "closer's dream," a save in Game 7 of the 2002 World Series).

**Bruce Sutter** and **Huston Street** were "raised as relievers." With the Cubs here in 1974 and 1975 (the latter club shared a Texas League title), Bruce was developing the legendary split fastball that would take him to Cooperstown.

Despite a remarkable collegiate career at the University of Texas, many questioned whether Huston would become a solid big league closer. The former Longhorn erased those doubts in a hurry. His 10-game stop with the RockHounds in 2004 was about as long as any he made in the minors and was the American League Rookie of the Year in '05.

### 300-Save Club

Mariano Rivera	652
Trevor Hoffman	601
<b>Lee Smith</b>	<b>478</b>
Francisco Rodriguez	437
John Franco	424
Billy Wagner	422
Dennis Eckersley	390
Joe Nathan	377
Jonathan Papelbon	368
Jeff Reardon	367
<b>Troy Percival</b>	<b>358</b>
Randy Myers	347
Craig Kimbrel	346
Rollie Fingers	341
John Wetteland	330
Francisco Cordero	329
Fernando Rodney	327
<b>Roberto Hernandez</b>	<b>326</b>
<b>Huston Street</b>	<b>324</b>
Jose Mesa	321
Todd Jones	319
Rick Aguilera	318
Robb Nen	314
Tom Henke	311
Rich Gossage	310
Jeff Montgomery	304
Doug Jones	303
Kenley Jansen	301
Jason Isringhausen	300
<b>Bruce Sutter</b>	<b>300</b>

Franchise alums in red

### Think the 300-save club isn't a big deal?

Both Baseball Reference & MLB.com require 13 or more saves for inclusion on their respective all-time lists and both show **959 pitchers with 13 or more saves in big league history, meaning far in excess of one thousand ... perhaps two thousand (?) ... pitchers have recorded a big league save. Of those ... thirty have recorded 300 (or more).**

The list will almost certainly grow by one this season -- Aroldis Chapman enters the 2020 season with 273.

Next among active relievers:

- Joakin Soria has 221 ... 79 shy ... will turn 36 this season ... and has just 43 saves in the last four seasons.
- Greg Holland has 206 .. 94 shy ... is 35 ... and has just 20 saves in the last two seasons. Of his 206, 166 came in a four-season stretch between 2013 and 2017 (he missed one year due to injury).
- No other active pitcher has as many as 200 saves.





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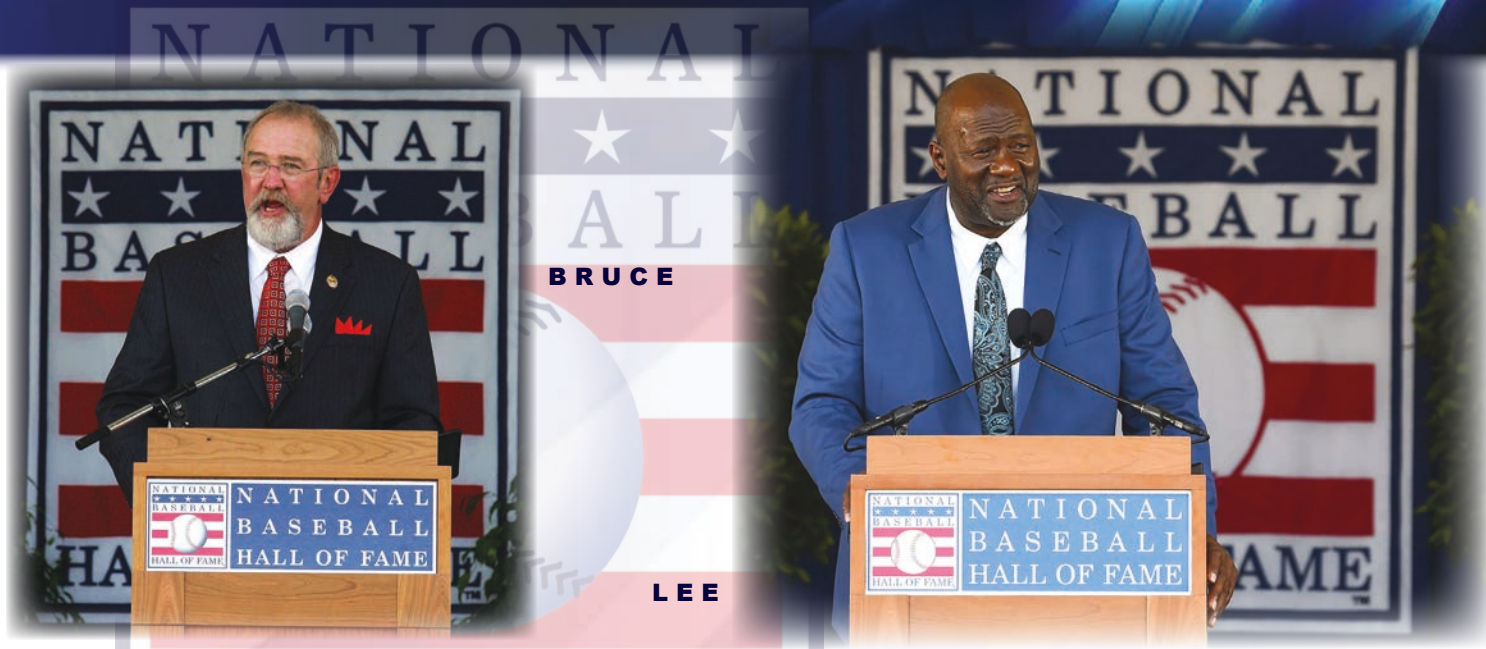


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BRUCE

LEE

It could be said the podium at Cooperstown is the most hallowed place in the game. Lee Smith is the third franchise alum whose journey has led him there.

**Bruce Sutter** "checked all the boxes" as Major League closer with the Cubs, Cardinals and Braves. He was a six-time National League All-Star ... led the league in saves ... times ... won the NL Cy Young (1979) ... and was a World Series champion with St. Louis (1982). He was among the to be used in the specialized role of the eighth and ninth innings and was just the third pitcher in MLB history to reach the 300-save plateau.

**Bert Blyleven's** time with our franchise was brief but impactful, his legendary curveball in e starts for the Angels here in 1992 as part of a (successful) comeback bid (he the season, which be his last, with the California Angels). He made his presence felt the diamond as well on during his short stay in West Texas and he returned as a featured guest at our winter sports banquet in early 1993.

Although he last pitched in The Show in 1992, "the Dutchman" (he was born in the Netherlands) still ranks all-time in strikeouts with 3,701. Hall of Fame third baseman Brooks Robinson said of Blyleven " ... his curveball was nasty, I'll tell you that. Enough to make your knees buckle. Bert was tcher—a dominating pitcher."

**Lee Smith waited a long time for "the call."** The role of closer is probably second only to that of designated hitter when it comes to Hall of Fame "worthy" debates. He was on the ballot for 15 years, falling short of the 75% mark required for election.

During that time, he found solace in the spirit of the man who had originally scouted him, Buck O'Neil. Buck, a great friend of our franchise and who twice graced our winter sports banquet, was the man who spoke for 17 Negro League players inducted into Cooperstown in 2006. Yet Buck, himself, fell short of election to the Hall.

"All the years and all the things he went through, I never heard him say a bad word about one soul," Lee said of Buck.

It was O'Neil who scouted him and , at age 17, Lee was selected by the Cubs in the second round (28th overall) in the 1975 draft, in part based on Buck's recommendation.

When the Today's Game Era Committee (an of the Veteran's Committee) met to review candidates for the Hall in December of 2018, the 12-member panel made Lee Smith a unanimous selection.

**One of the members of that committee ... was Bert Blyleven.**

Almost every kid on the planet dreams of being a big leaguer at some point. A great image of that moment in Lee Smith's childhood comes from his recollection of some pretty cool target practice. As Lee recalled, "My brother and I used to throw little plum peaches that grew on our property by our mailbox. We tried to hit the on the mailbox. I guess that is why I have always had pretty good control."

It took a while for that control to manifest itself from the pitchers' mound in West Texas (see below) and his other stops in the minors. But he rediscovered that command when he got to Wrigley Field and went from throwing "little plum peaches at mailboxes" to throwing fastballs to big leaguers ... and all the way to Cooperstown.

**Lee Smith: "From throwing plum peaches ... to Cooperstown"**

Career Totals	Games	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	Ratio	WHIP
Majors (18 seasons)	1,022	3.03	1,289	1,133	486	1,251	2.6:1	1.26
Minors	190	4.72	655	655	482	366	0.8:1	1.74
Midland Cubs	65	5.56	259	283	213	117	0.6:1	1.92



BERT

According to the Hall, six former RockHounds will find their names on the ballot over the next four years.

(See pages 81 & 82)





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**TIM HUDSON**

**HOF ELIGIBLE : 2021**



**BARRY ZITO**

**HOF ELIGIBLE : 2021**



**NICK SWISHER**

**HOF ELIGIBLE : 2021**

## Tim Hudson

### Cooperstown's Capsule:

Four-time All-Star pitched 17 seasons with the Athletics, Braves and Giants ... Finished in Top 5 of Cy Young Award vote three times, including a second-place in 2000 when he won 20 games ... Career record of 222-133, a winning percentage of .625 – one of only 16 pitchers in history to reach that combination ... Member of 2014 World Champion Giants.



1999: The "timing" was perfect. Tim had pitched for Oakland's AA club in 1998 (Hunsville) but began '99 with the inaugural club in the RockHounds/A's era. He went 3-0, with a 0.50 ERA and would go on to become the RockHound to reach the Major Leagues. The stay was short but it can certainly be said that "Huddy's" breakthrough on his way to The Show came as a member of the RockHounds.

## Barry Zito

### Cooperstown's Capsule:

Three-time All-Star and 2002 American League Cy Young Award winner pitched 15 seasons for Athletics and Giants ... Led league in games started four times while compiling 165-143 record and 4.04 ERA ... Member of 2010 and 2012 Giants World Series champions ... Pitched 7.2 innings of shutout ball in Game 5 of 2012 NLCS to begin Giants' rally from 3-games-to-1 t against Cardinals.



1999: Tim Hudson opened the '99 season here and another member of Oakland's future "Big Three" it as a RockHound. Barry had been drafted by the A's that June and was on a fast track to the Major Leagues. He made four starts for the 'Hounds, making a very cool Hudson / Zito "bookend" to the season.

## Nick Swisher

### Cooperstown's Capsule:

2010 AL All-Star played 12 seasons with Athletics, White Sox, Yankees, Indians and Braves ... Nine straight seasons with 20-plus home runs (2005-13), topping 80-RBI mark e times (2006, 2009-12) ... Member of 2009 Yankees World Series championship team.



2003: Nick's time with the 'Hounds was a perfect "preview" of his big league career. He didn't hit for a high average (.230) ... showed a little bit of pop (5 HR & 43 RBI in 76 games) ... and yet he was seemingly "everywhere" on the diamond and was an absolute fan favorite. His average and power increased a bit in The Show and the intangibles remained. "Swish" was even credited with changing the clubhouse culture ... with the Yankees!



## Andre Ethier

### Cooperstown's Capsule:

Played 12 seasons, all with the Dodgers ... Two-time All-Star and 2011 Gold Glove Award winner ... Won a Silver Slugger Award in 2009 ... Reached the 20-homer mark in four seasons ... Appeared in 14 Postseason series over eight years with the Dodgers, and was member of Dodgers 2017 National League championship team.



2005: Andre had a true breakout year, hitting .319 with 18 HR & 80 RBI and was named Texas League Player of the Year. The power numbers are remarkable because he was, for all intents and purposes, pitched around after mid-May. He was called up three days before the end of the regular season but, without him, the outright Texas League title in franchise history would not have come in 2005.

## Huston Street

### Cooperstown's Capsule:

The 2005 American League Rookie of the Year pitched 13 seasons for Athletics, Colorado Rockies, San Diego Padres and LA Angels ... Two-time All-Star reached 30-save mark in the seasons ... Finished career with 324 saves, 42 wins and 2.95 ERA over 668 appearances.



2004: Huston Street was less than two months out of UT when he reached the AA RockHounds. The son of UT legend James Street, Huston is as good a guy as he was a reliever ... and that's saying a lot (see 300-Save Club, page 93).

## Brad Ziegler

### Cooperstown's Capsule:

Pitched 11 seasons for A's, Diamondbacks, Red Sox and Marlins ... In 739 appearances - all as a reliever - won 37 games and saved 105 more while posting a 2.75 earned run average ... In 2008, set all-time MLB record by pitching 39.1 scoreless innings to start career.



2005-07: One of the truly great success stories in our franchise's history, Brad Ziegler went from being told (by the Phillies) he wasn't good enough for Single-A ball ... to a Texas League All-Star as a starting pitcher with the RockHounds ... to be asked to convert to a submarining reliever, which is quite often the "beginning of the end" of a career. Instead, "Zig" He is one of the pitchers with the seasons (or more) in which he made 65 (or more) appearances with an ERA under 2.50. Not impressed? Only two guys have more and one of them is Mariano Rivera (6). Here's a cool sidebar: He threw his "submarine" pitches as a pro as a member of the RockHounds.



ANDRE ETHIER

HOF ELIGIBLE : 2023



HUSTON STREET

HOF ELIGIBLE : 2023



BRAD ZIEGLER

HOF ELIGIBLE : 2024



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**11<sub>AM</sub>**

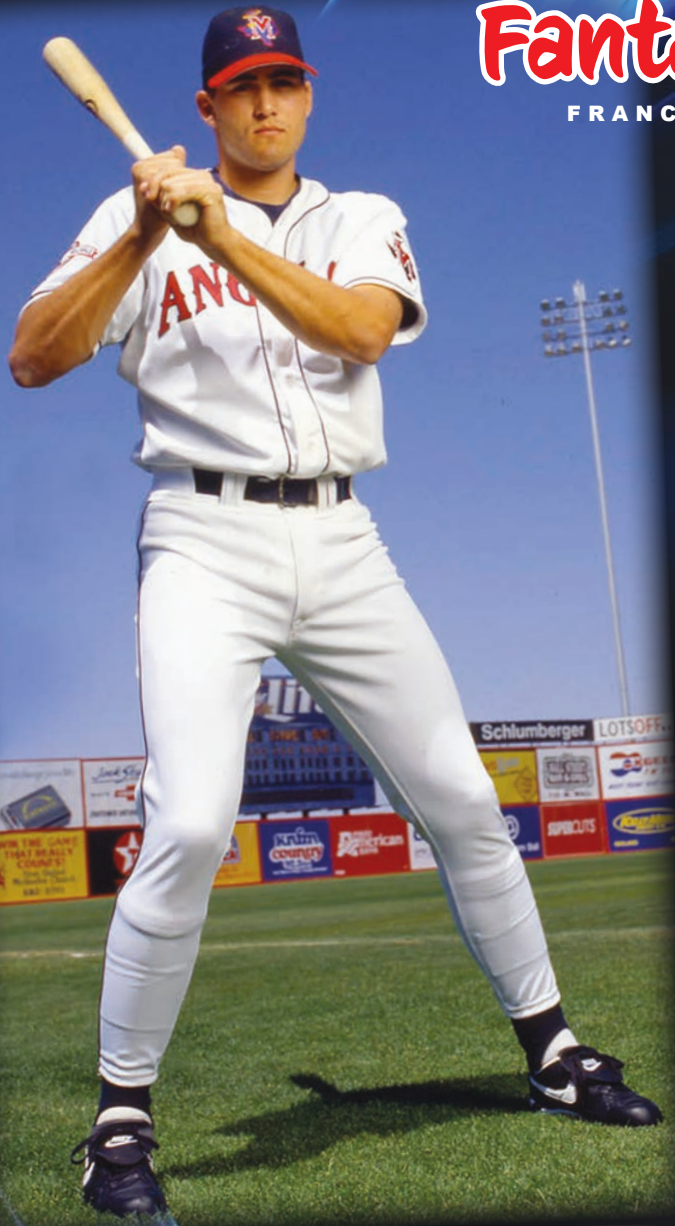
**Weekends**

**10<sub>PM</sub>**



# Fantasy(land) Baseball

FRANCHISE HALL OF FAME TROY GLAUS



**April 2, 1998**

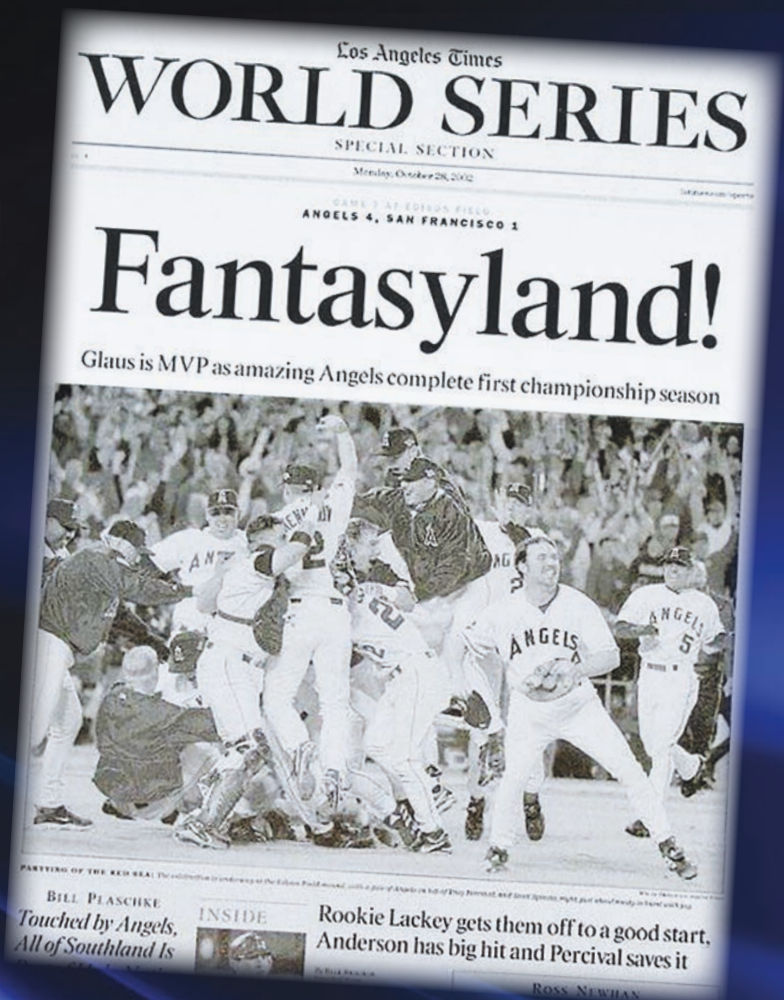
**Troy Glaus** is the starting third baseman for the (Double-A) Midland Angels ... in his first professional game. The Texas League contest, between the Angels and the Wichita Wranglers, is played at Christensen Stadium.

**April 6, 1999**

Troy is the Opening Day third baseman for the Anaheim Angels. He hits 29 home runs in his rookie year and becomes the American League HR champion in 2000, belting 47.

**October 29, 2002**

He is riding up Main Street ... alongside the world's most famous mouse ... at Disneyland in a shower of confetti as the Most Valuable Player of the 2002 Word Series (see page 86).







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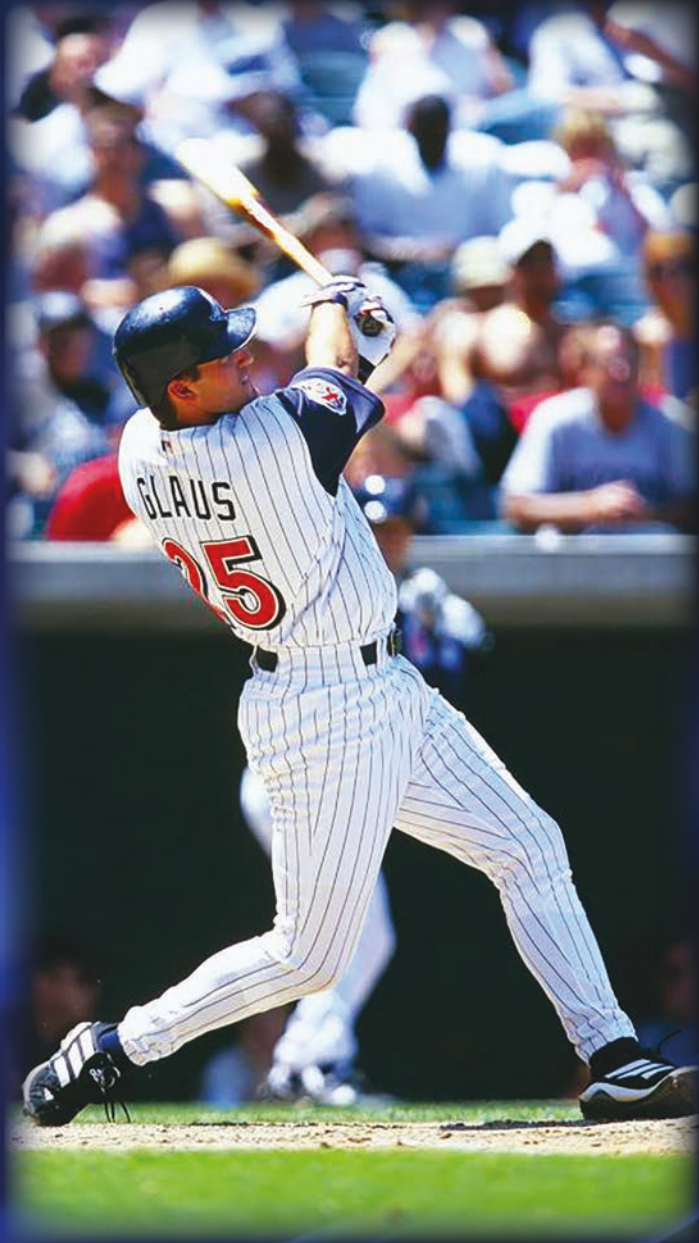
For a high school player to be drafted in the second round and choose not to sign might best be described as "risky." Troy was selected by the San Diego Padres in the second round of the 1994 draft out of Carlsbad (California) High School but elected, instead, to attend UCLA. The decision would be both brave ... and wise. The Angels selected him, after his junior season with the Bruins, with the third overall pick in the 1997 draft.

He did not play professionally in '97, instead starting his pro career here (see left) the following April.

A pro debut at the AA level is very unusual (in fact, it's rare) and was likely dictated by his contract (he played precisely 50 games before moving up to AAA, another move that may have been "in writing").

Contractual or not, his time in the minors was brief.

**In 50 games here with the Angels, Troy hit .309 with 19 home runs. Projected over a full Texas League season, that's 50 HR, and that's "rarefied air" in the minors.**



Troy is at the top of the Angels' float and, as World Series MVP, pretty much on top of the baseball world. He is holding the iconic championship trophy and standing next to manager Mike Scioscia.

Other Midland **Angel alums** on board are:

<b>Tim Salmon</b>	(next to Mickey)
<b>Garret Anderson</b>	(open jersey, black shirt),
<b>Troy Percival</b>	(center, # 40)
<b>Bengie Molina</b>	(arms extended, # 1)



The 1998 Texas League season marked the end of our franchise "Angels Era" ... but the "finishing touch" came four years later, in the World Series.

The Los Angeles Angels were "born" in 1961, making this the 60th season in their existence. In their 59 years, the Angels have reached the World Series just once but, thanks in large part to a quintet of former Midland Angels, the Halos were victorious in that lone trip to the Fall Classic.

**Troy Glaus** led the way with a monster Series, going 10-for-26 (.385), with three home runs and eight runs batted in. He scored seven runs and added four walks (for a 1.313 OBP) and was named the World Series MVP. Troy was brilliant throughout, beginning with a pair of solo home runs in Game 1 (he hit .347 in his career in the postseason). His biggest swing, though, came in Game 6.

The Giants had taken a 3-games-to-2 lead and were eight outs away from winning the Series, holding a 5-0 lead with one out in the last of the seventh. A two-run double Glaus' bat was part of a three-run rally that turned the game around and the Angels scored three more in the eighth to square the Series with a 6-5 win. Had he not been named MVP, the honor would have gone to ...

**Tim Salmon**, who went 9-for-26 (.346) and matched Glaus' total of seven runs, hitting two home runs while driving in e. Both of his homers came in Game 2 ... both came with a man on base ... and the second (in the last of the eighth) was the eventual game-winner in a wild, 11-10 win that squared the Series at a game apiece.

**Garret Anderson** (who ranks among the LA Angels' all-time leaders in virtually every e category) hit a solid .281 (9-for-32) and drove in six runs. Half of his ribbies came on the Series' e nce in Game 7.

most important swing - a a thr

**Troy Percival** was certainly the "Most Valuable Pitcher" in the Series, earning saves in three of the Angels' four wins. He allowed just one run in his three appearances, and that lone run came on a solo homer the bats of a guy named Barry Bonds (in the crazy, 11-10, second game). His third save came in Game 7 (a "dream" for any closer) and was followed by the iconic moment pictured here.

**Bengie Molina** hit .286 to go with his (as always) brilliant defense behind the dish. **Orlando Palmeiro**, **Ramon Ortiz** (Game 2 winning pitcher), **Scott Schoeneweis**, **Jarrod Washburn** and **Shawn Wooten** were the other franchise alums who played in the Series, as did former Midland Cub **Shawon Dunston** (with the Giants).

In 2015, the *Orange County Register* named its All-Time LA Angels team and we can't imagine much has changed since). The team includes Hall of Famers **Nolan Ryan** and **Vladimir Guerrero**, **Mike Trout** (who will join them in the Hall) e players from our "Angels Era" (1985-98):

Catcher **Bengie Molina**

Pitcher (Closer) **Troy Percival**

3rd Baseman **Troy Glaus**

**Garret Anderson**

Designated Hitter **Tim Salmon**

(Pitchers Jarrod Washburn & Bryan Harvey were among the Runners Up)



The most iconic moment in LA Angels history is captured in these images ... and all three are franchise alums  
**Bengie Molina**  
**Troy Percival**  
**Troy Glaus**







**In his 13-year Major League career, Troy Glaus hit 320 home runs with 950 RBI. Five years after his retirement (his last season was 2010), his name appeared on the Hall of Fame ballot.**

The amazing website Baseball Reference (baseballreference.com) tells us that just shy of 20,000 (19,960) players had appeared in the Major Leagues (through 2019). That number provides some very good perspective on Troy's career.

Of the 20,000 ... 333 players have been elected to Cooperstown.

Of the hitters (roughly 10,000), 148 hitters have 300 (or more) home runs, with a group of about a dozen more soon to reach that plateau (so we'll say 160).

In both cases, that number represents about one-and-a-half percent of every player (or hitter) in big league history.

Relative to hitting 300 home runs ... of every 200 hitters, three accomplish the feat.

Troy was not named on any of 2015's Hall ballots and, as a result, was not included after that year. But just to be listed is remarkable. We could not (anywhere) the exact number of players to have appeared on the Hall's ballots over the years, but some "rough math" says that to see your name appear, you must have been among the top 15 percent y ... among the best to ever play the game.

That, along with four All-Star selections ... two Silver Slugger Awards ... a World Series ring and being the MVP of that World Series ... adds up to a very impressive resume.

**We're pleased to induct Troy Glaus into our Franchise Hall of Fame.**



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