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MAY 11-MAY 16



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Justin Tunis, MD

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SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS

2021 SCHEDULE



MAY

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

JULY

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

SEPTEMBER

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

JUNE

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

AUGUST

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

2021 Triple-A Northeast Opponents

BUF
TRN

Buffalo Bisons
Trenton Thunder (Toronto Blue Jays)

LHV

Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Philadelphia Phillies)

ROC

Rochester Red Wings (Washington Nationals)

SYR

Syracuse Mets (New York Mets)

WOR

Worcester Red Sox (Boston Red Sox)

DON'T MISS IT!

2021 GUIDERAIL

Volume Eight- Issue One

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Top Dog: Davis excited to lead SWB	22-26



Manager Doug Davis was given the keys to the RailRiders in 2020, but the global pandemic took away that chance.

Now Davis is ready to lead Scranton/Wilkes-Barre onto the field, not too far away from where he grew up.

Read more on page 22.

Same but Different: Changes sweep MiLB	28-30
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To our fans,

It has been over 600 days since we have seen you at PNC Field. So much has happened since then and your return to this ballpark is long overdue.

Minor League Baseball is back! We will once again see our favorite players; the future stars of the New York Yankees and the other Major League clubs. We will have the chance to experience the affordable, family fun that is provided on a nightly basis. We can once again kick back with friends and relax at a game.

As we embark on this new season, things clearly be will be different. We plan on making sure each and every one of you has the best time possible while at PNC Field. We ask for your understanding and cooperation to make our ballpark a safe place for fans to enjoy Minor League Baseball.

Wear your mask. Practice safe social distancing. Respect those around you... no matter if it is the fans nearby to the staff assisting you to the players on the field. If you have any questions, please ask. If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to tell us.

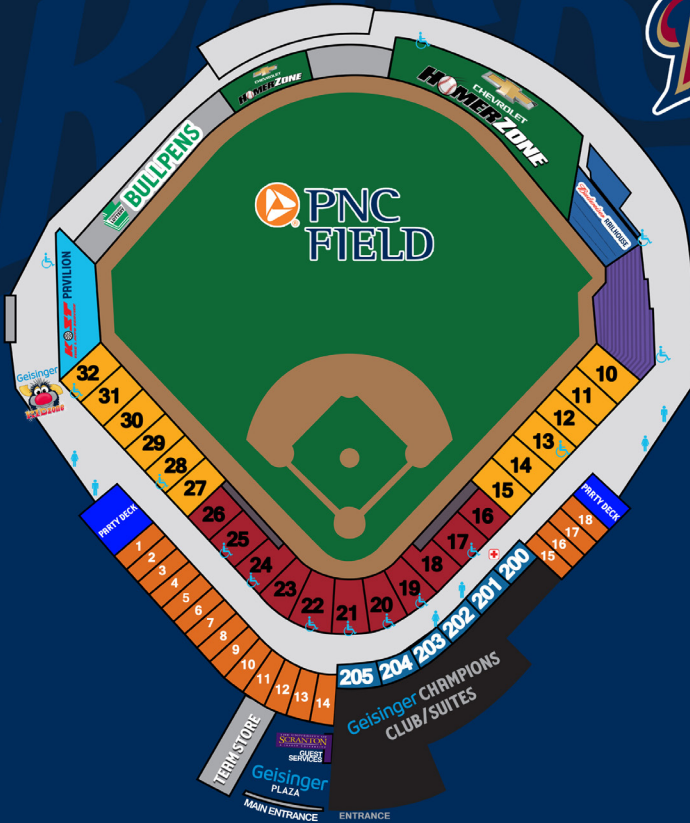
Let the games begin! Your favorite promotions have returned. The giveaways are back. CHAMP is here, as is the team that you have grown to love for over three decades.

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RAILRIDERS APPAREL



VISIT THE TEAM STORE FOR NEW RAILRIDERS
& NEW YORK YANKEES ITEMS



MANAGER DOUG DAVIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DOUG DAVIS - MINOR LEAGUE MANAGERIAL RECORD

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



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DUSTIN GLANT- PITCHING COACH

Born: July 20, 1981

Resides: Tampa, FL

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



CASEY DYKES- HITTING COACH

Born: January 27, 1990

Resides: Wesley Chapel, FL

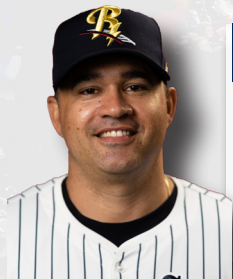
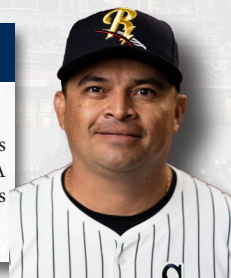
Dykes joined the Yankees organization last year after spending 2019 with Indiana University as their hitting coach. Prior to his time with Indiana, Dykes was the hitting coach and recruiting coordinator at Virginia Military Institute (2015-18) and spent two seasons as an assistant at his alma mater,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

RAUL DOMINIGUEZ- COACH

Born: July 25, 1980

Resides: Panama City, Panama

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



CAONABO COSME- COACH

Born: March 18, 1979

Resides: La Vega, Dominican Republic

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



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2021 RAILRIDERS ROSTER



1- ANDREW VELAZQUEZ INF

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

2020 TOTALS

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



2- BRADEN BRISTO RHP

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

2020 TOTALS

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

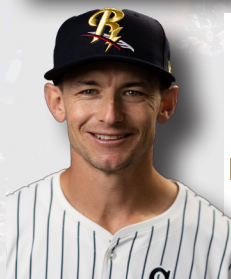


3- ARMANDO ALVAREZ INF

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

2020 TOTALS

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



4- ROB BRANTLY C

Height: 6-0 Weight: 191 Bats: Left Throws: Right
 Born: July 14, 1989 in San Diego, CA
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 20, 2020

2020 TOTALS

AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	E
.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0

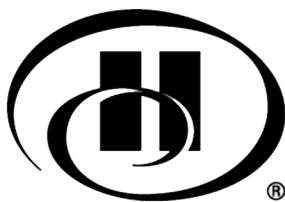


6- DEIVI GARCÍA RHP

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

2020 TOTALS

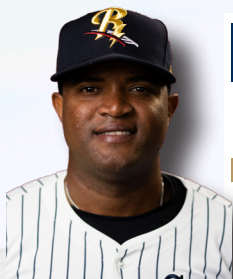
W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP	OPP AVG
3-2	4.98	6	6	0	34.1	35	20	19	6	6	33	0	.254



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7- SOCRATES BRITO OF

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

2020 TOTALS

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

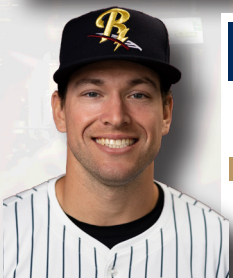


9- GREG ALLEN OF

Height: 6-0 Weight: 185 Bats: Switch Throws: Right
 Born: March 15, 1993 in San Diego, CA
 Acquired: Trade with the San Diego Padres on January 6, 2021

2020 TOTALS

AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	E
.154	16	26	4	4	1	0	1	4	3	10	2	0	.281	0

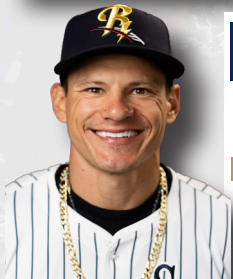


10- TREVOR LANE LHP

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

2020 TOTALS

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



12- DEREK DIETRICH INF

Height: 6-2 Weight: 205 Bats: Left Throws: Right
 Born: July 18, 1989 in Cleveland, OH
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on February 13, 2021

2020 TOTALS

AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	E
.197	25	61	9	12	1	0	5	8	9	21	1	1	.347	1



15- NICK GREEN RHP

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

2020 TOTALS

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

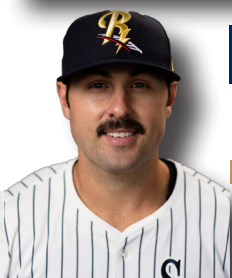


16- CRISTIAN PÉREZ INF

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

2020 TOTALS

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



17- NICK GOODY RHP

Height: 5-11 Weight: 200 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: July 6, 1991 in Orlando, FL
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on February 15, 2021

2020 TOTALS

W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP	OPP	AVG
0-2	9.00	17	1	1	11.0	14	12	11	3	8	13	1		.304



19- ADDISON RUSS RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 202 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: October 29, 1994 in Amarillo, TX
 Acquired: Trade with the Philadelphia Phillies on August 21, 2020

2020 TOTALS

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

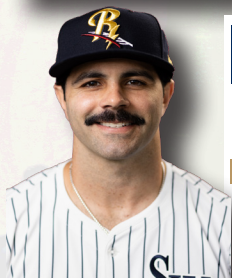


20- KELLIN DEGLAN C

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

2020 TOTALS

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

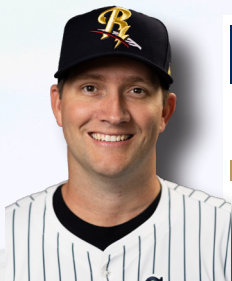


21- RYAN LAMARRE OF

Height: 6-1 Weight: 215 Bats: Right Throws: Left
 Born: November 21, 1988 in Royal Oak, MI
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 12, 2020

2020 TOTALS

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



22- ADAM WARREN RHP

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

2020 TOTALS

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

Did Not Play



24- ZACK ZEHNER OF

Height: 6-4 Weight: 215 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: August 8, 1992 in San Diego, CA
 Acquired: Selected in the 18th round of the 2015 Draft from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

2020 TOTALS

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

Did Not Play



25- BRIAN KELLER RHP

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

2020 TOTALS

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

Did Not Play



26- NICK NELSON RHP

Height: 6-1 Weight: 205 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: December 5, 1995 in Panama City, FL
 Acquired: Selected in the 4th round of the 2016 Draft from Gulf Coast C.C. (FL)

2020 TOTALS

W-L ERA G GS SV IP H R ER HR BB SO WP OPPAVG
 0-0 5.06 3 1 0 5.1 6 5 3 1 3 4 0 .286



28- ROBINSON CHIRINOS C

Height: 6-1 Weight: 220 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: June 5, 1984 in Punto Fijo, Venezuela
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on February 13, 2021

2020 TOTALS

AVG G AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI BB SO SB CS OBP E
 .162 26 74 4 12 3 0 1 7 6 21 0 0 .232 0



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29- BROOKS KRISKE RHP

Height: 6-3 Weight: 190 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: February 3, 1994 in Scottsdale, AZ
 Acquired: Selected in the 6th round of the 2016 Draft from USC

2020 TOTALS

W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP	OPP AVG
0-0	14.73	4	0	0	3.2	3	6	6	1	7	8	2	.200

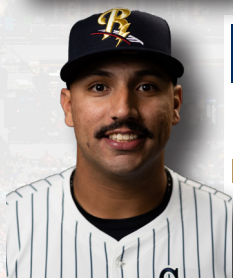


31- ESTEVAN FLORIAL OF

Height: 6-1 Weight: 195 Bats: Left Throws: Right
 Born: November 25, 1997 in Barahona, Dominican Republic
 Acquired: Signed as a Non-Drafted Free Agent on March 19, 2015

2020 TOTALS

AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	E
.333	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	.333	0



32- NESTOR CORTES LHP

Height: 5-11 Weight: 210 Bats: Right Throws: Left
 Born: December 10, 1994 in Surgidero de Batabano, Cuba
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on January 4, 2021

2020 TOTALS

W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP	OPP AVG
0-1	15.26	5	1	0	7.2	12	14	13	6	6	8	0	.343



33- KYLE BARRACLOUGH RHP

Height: 6-3 Weight: 229 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: May 23, 1990 in Santa Clara, CA
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on February 2, 2021

2020 TOTALS

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



34- CHRIS GITTENS INF

Height: 6-4 Weight: 250 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: February 4, 1994 in Sherman, TX
 Acquired: Selected in the 12th round of the 2014 Draft from Grayson County College (TX)

2020 TOTALS

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

2021 RAILRIDERS ROSTER



35- LUIS GARCÍA RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 240 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: January 30, 1987 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
 Acquired: Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on December 18, 2020

2020 TOTALS

W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP	OPP AVG
0-2	7.56	11	2	0	8.1	10	9	7	1	9	11	2	.278



36- ALBERT ABREU RHP

Height: 6-2 Weight: 190 Bats: Right Throws: Right
 Born: September 26, 1995, in Guayubin, Dominican Republic
 Acquired: Trade with the Houston Astros on November 17, 2016

2020 TOTALS

W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP	OPP AVG
0-1	20.25	2	0	0	1.1	4	4	3	1	2	2	0	.500



38- MIKE MONTGOMERY LHP

Height: 6-5 Weight: 220 Bats: Left Throws: Left
 Born: July 1, 1989 in Mission Hills, CA
 Signed as a Minor League Free Agent on April 5, 2021

2020 TOTALS

W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP	OPP AVG
0-0	5.06	3	1	0	5.1	6	5	3	1	3	4	0	.286



39- REGGIE MCCLAIN RHP

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

2020 TOTALS

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



54- BRODY KOERNER RHP

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

2020 TOTALS

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

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TOP DOG: BLOOMSBURG'S DAVIS EXCITED TO LEAD RAILRIDERS

Promoted to post in 2020, Manager Doug Davis is ready to finally lead Scranton/Wilkes-Barre out to play at PNC Field.

By Joe Vatile

When Doug Davis led the Syracuse Chiefs to a 4-2 win over the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees on September 1, 2008, he left the field having managed 999 games in eight seasons as a minor league skipper. It was nearly 13 years until he managed his 1000th game – on Opening Day 2021 fittingly for the RailRiders on May 4 at Syracuse.

Reaching that milestone has been a long time coming for the Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania native, one that was made even lengthier by the COVID-19 pandemic. After serving in several capacities as an assistant coach for the RailRiders since 2017, Davis was slated to manage the team in 2020. Unfortunately, he didn't get that opportunity when the Minor League Season was canceled last summer.



"It's very meaningful to me. Obviously longevity is one of the things – this is year 38 for me – so if you hang around long enough you get to certain milestones," said Davis about reaching the 1,000 game plateau. "It's a blessing, being able to stay in the game you love and enjoy, the camaraderie and friendships that you build over those years, that's all very, very important. The players that you have a chance to spend time with and watch develop and move on to bigger and better things. That all comes to mind for me."

Despite the excitement, the 2021 season promises to bring unprecedented challenges to just play a full 120-game season. Players have to comply with various MLB protocols, and the very structure of the schedule is radically changed from 2019.

"Things are different, no question about it. I think we knew that coming into this," Davis said. "Most of the players were in spring training so they could sort of ease their way through some different times. We have a team here that's fired up and ready to go. It has been a long stretch for everyone ... [the season] has been a long time coming."

Davis did not rest on his laurels while there was no season. He was tasked by the Yankees with the important job of running the team's Alternate Training Site out of PNC Field.

"For me, the Alternate Site was great. I mean it was a breath of fresh air," Davis noted. "Just getting me back on the field and in a managerial role. Although I didn't really feel like I was managing this club. I was kinda leading it and guiding it, setting schedules and stuff like that. But from a managing standpoint – not a whole lot of that going on."

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Despite the unprecedented challenges that has come with the global pandemic, Davis is thankful to be opportunity to work with the RailRiders for a fourth season.

“Being close to home – close to family and stay in my house and be able to commute – means an awful lot to myself and to my family,” he said. “It’s nice to be able to have some friendly faces come to the ballpark and see people during the course of the season that I normally wouldn’t get a chance to see.”

Davis’ 38-year career in baseball is a testament to the nomadic nature of the industry.

He graduated from Central Columbia High School in 1982 and began playing college baseball at North Carolina State University. In 1984, he was drafted in the ninth round of the MLB Draft by the California Angels and began his professional career with the Peoria Chiefs of the Midwest League. Davis hit .220 in 43 games with the Angels Single-A affiliate, which was skipped by 30-year-old Hazleton, Pennsylvania native Joe Maddon, now the manager of the Chicago Cubs.

After Davis’ first game with the Chiefs, Maddon drove him from the stadium to the hotel where he was staying. On the ride the two bonded over their shared roots in northeast Pennsylvania and developed a strong relationship.

For the next two seasons, Davis played under Maddon again with the Midland Angels of the Texas League before finally getting the call to the big leagues in 1988. On July 8 of that year, he boarded a 6:40 am flight in Portland, Oregon destined for Cleveland, Ohio, where he arrived at Municipal Stadium just over an hour before first pitch.

“I didn’t have the chance to take batting practice or anything to prepare for the game except get a uniform,” remembers Davis of his debut.

In the top of the fourth, third baseman Jack Howell was hit in the head by a pitch from the Indians’ Bud Black and had to be removed from the game. Manager Cookie Rojas turned to Davis and asked if he could play third base.

“I had never played [third] before,” said Davis, but he wasn’t about to let that prevent him from getting in the game. “So I go into my first major league baseball game to pinch run for Jack Howell and play third base.”

Davis’ unorthodox debut was far from over as two batters later Black hit Devon White in the kneecap with a pitch to load the bases. White dropped his bat and took a step toward Black while yelling at him, but Indians catcher Andy Allanson climbed on his back and a benches-clearing brawl ensued.

“I haven’t been in the big leagues for five minutes, and I’m in the middle of a bench-clearing brawl in Cleveland, playing a position I’ve never played before. So that was a good experience,” Davis laughs. “Welcome to the big leagues.”

After his big league cameo, Davis finished the 1988 season in the minor leagues with Triple-A Edmonton. He bounced back and forth for the next two and a half seasons with Edmonton and Midland before the Angels released him in July 1991. The Kansas City Royals quickly signed Davis and assigned him to Double-A Memphis.

“I wasn’t sure where my career was going at that point,” said Davis. “I had been in Triple-A for four years with the Angels and there were no opportunities there, and nobody else had opportunities [for big league playing time] either.”

The following offseason, Davis signed a contract with the Texas Rangers. He spent most of the 1992 season in the minor leagues, but on April 23, he made his lone MLB appearance with the Rangers.

On an 86-degree day at Arlington Stadium, Davis entered an 11-5 game in the top of the ninth as a defensive replacement for Hall of Fame catcher Ivan Rodriguez. He led off the bottom of the inning against Jack Doherty of the Detroit Tigers and poked a single through the left side of the infield between shortstop and third base. It was his first – and only – big league hit.

Davis spent the next two seasons back in Triple-A with Oklahoma City and retired as a player to begin his coaching career in 1995 with the Lake Elsinore Storm in the Angels organization.



“When I left the Angels [in 1991] they actually wanted me to start coaching, and I just wasn’t ready at that time,” said Davis. “I wanted to keep playing ... so after the ’94 season, the Angels were the first team to call and offered me a coaching position and I took it almost immediately.”

After one year as an assistant coach, the 33-year-old got his first managerial job with the Pittsfield Mets of the New York-Penn League. Davis guided the team to a 47-28 record and a playoff birth. In 1997, he led Pittsfield to its first and only league championship. His performance earned him a promotion within the Mets organization to the Capital City Bombers of the South Atlantic League, where he steered the team to a franchise-record 90 wins and captured another league championship.

In 1999 and 2000, Davis managed the Binghamton Mets of the Eastern League before leaving



to become the Minor League Field Coordinator for the Montreal Expos in 2001. He served the Florida Marlins in the same role in 2002, before taking over as bench coach of the Marlins in 2003 and 2004 under Jack McKeon. In the 2003 season Davis reached the pinnacle of baseball, winning the World Series in six games against the New York Yankees.

“[Winning the World Series] was a tremendous experience,” said Davis. “It was remarkable watching team evolve, watching a team of very talented players grow together as a group and then just watch all the things fall into place.”

Davis returned to his role as the Marlins Minor League Field Coordinator for the 2005 season, but in 2006 he again changed organizations and became the manager of the New Hampshire Fisher Cats of the Eastern League in the Toronto Blue Jays system. After one year in New Hampshire, he was promoted to manage the Syracuse Chiefs in 2007 and 2008 before taking over as the Blue Jays Minor League Field Coordinator from 2009-16.

In 999 games spread out across eight seasons as a minor league manager, Davis compiled a 515-484 (.516) record and won three league championships. He is eager to add another championship at home in Northeast Pennsylvania.

“I love managing,” said Davis, who added that he also loved his role as a field coordinator. “I loved being able to not only work with players, but [as a field coordinator] to also work with staff and have a chance to see staff members evolve and grow and watch their careers.”

Davis returned to the dugout in 2017 when he joined the RailRiders as a defensive coach. He transitioned to the role of bullpen coach for the 2018 season, and served as the in that role to manager Jay Bell in 2019 as well before he was named manager prior to the 2020 season.

“Honestly, for me it couldn’t get any better than this.”

Photo Credits: Tim Dougherty



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SAME BUT DIFFERENT: CHANGES SWEEP MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

The landscape of the Minor Leagues has changed dramatically since we last saw the RailRiders play.

By Adam Marco

September 7, 2019.

That was the last time we saw the RailRiders take the field. While it is certainly a long time ago and so much has happened in the world around us since then, we know the game we love is back within view.

Restrictions remain in place for now after a lost year, but soon many of those too will go away and allow access for all to come enjoy a night out at the ballpark.

What you might not have noticed or heard about because of everything else in the news are the changes across the landscape of Minor League Baseball. Much of the old structure has been altered. New ideas and plans have filtered from the top down. There are new teams to play... eventually. New rules are in place as is a different schedule.

Minor League Baseball has changed.

This won't be a definitive explanation on what has happened but rather just scratching the surface on the new Triple-A East and the 2021 schedule. There are many layers to the decisions made and how they can positively impact players and the communities they play in.

After the 2019 season, details of a plan to change Minor League Baseball's structure emerged. The number of teams would be reduced to better streamline the player development structure. Major League Clubs would now have four full-season affiliates, plus a few short-season developmental teams.

The global pandemic and the loss of the 2020 season paved the way for changes across the industry. Some teams changed MLB affiliates. Some moved up or down levels. Some teams shifted from affiliated ball to prospect-driven, draft showcase leagues. A few teams moved to and from independent baseball and, yes, a few teams no longer exist.

Part of the reason behind the shift in affiliates, which was a dance that could be done every few years by parent clubs, was to secure Minor League teams closer to their home ballparks. Minor League teams are working under 10-year Player Development Licenses, designed to help improve conditions and facilities for players across the country for longer periods of time. Being closer to their parent club is not the only reason for the change, but it was certainly a prevalent one for many teams. The idea was to help reduce travel and therefore improve conditions and the quality of life for players.

For decades, there was always one east coast Major League team who was forced to have a west coast Triple-A affiliate, which was never quite conducive to meeting the ever-changing needs of a Major League roster with increased travel time and cost just to call a player up.

In 2019, the New York Yankees had the RailRiders, the Trenton Thunder in Double-A, the Tampa Tarpons in Advanced-A, the Charleston RiverDogs in Low-A as well as short-season teams in Staten Island, Pulaski, the Gulf Coast League and the Dominican Summer League.

After Minor League Baseball's restructuring, the Yankees full-season clubs are Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, the Somerset Patriots in Double-A (which joined affiliated baseball from the independent Atlantic League), the Hudson Valley Renegades in Advanced-A (formerly a Tampa Bay Rays affiliate in the short-season New York-Penn League) and the Tarpons, though that club moved down to the lowest level of full season baseball.

The International League has given way to Triple-A East and gone from 14 teams to 20 clubs. Part of the shift included moving teams from the Pacific Coast League to Triple-A East. The Iowa Cubs, Memphis Redbirds, Nashville Sounds and Omaha Storm Chasers have flipped from playing teams out west to teams in the east.

The Sounds, for example, no longer need to make the 2,500-mile trek to play Tacoma. Instead, their longest journey will now be just over 1,000 miles to play the Worcester Red Sox. Yes... Worcester. 2020 was slated to be the final year for the Pawtucket Red Sox at McCoy Stadium (but we knew this pre-pandemic).

In addition to the four clubs moving from the PCL to Triple-A East, the newly-formed league also includes the St. Paul Saints and the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp. St. Paul has been an extremely successful independent league team for decades. Jacksonville was an International League team from 1962-1968 but shifted to the Double-A Southern League in 1970 and played there for 50 years (most notably under the "Suns" moniker).

The remainder of the Pacific Coast League has essentially turned in Triple-A West; a 10-team league that itself added an independent league team. The Sugar Land Skeeters have moved from the Atlantic League to affiliated ball for the Houston Astros.

Speaking of affiliations, many have remained, though some have shifted to the closer proximity of their Major League parent club. Here are the Triple-A East teams by division with their current affiliates and how long those teams have been associated with each other:

Triple-A East Northeast

<u>Club</u>	<u>Affiliate</u>	<u>First Year</u>
Buffalo Bisons	Toronto Blue Jays	2013
Lehigh Valley IronPigs	Philadelphia Phillies	2007
Rochester Red Wings	Washington Nationals	2021
SWB RailRiders	New York Yankees	2007
Syracuse Mets	New York Mets	2019
Worcester Red Sox	Boston Red Sox	2021

Triple-A East Midwest

<u>Club</u>	<u>Affiliate</u>	<u>First Year</u>
Columbus Clippers	Cleveland Indians	2009
Indianapolis Indians	Pittsburgh Pirates	2005
Iowa Cubs	Chicago Cubs	1981
Louisville Bats	Cincinnati Reds	2000
Omaha Storm Chasers	Kansas City Royals	1969
St. Paul Saints	Minnesota Twins	2021
Toledo Mud Hens	Detroit Tigers	1987

Triple-A East Southeast

<u>Club</u>	<u>Affiliate</u>	<u>First Year</u>
Charlotte Knights	Chicago White Sox	1999
Durham Bulls	Tampa Bay Rays	1998
Gwinnett Stripers	Atlanta Braves	2009
Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp	Miami Marlins	2021
Memphis Redbirds	St. Louis Cardinals	1998
Nashville Sounds	Milwaukee Brewers	2021
Norfolk Tides	Baltimore Orioles	2007



Due to the ongoing pandemic, the United States-Canada border remains closed to non-essential travel. This forced the Toronto Blue Jays to play their 2020 home games at Buffalo's Sahlen Field.

Toronto will once again call Sahlen Field home, although they have been playing the first month and a half of this season at their Spring Training home in Dunedin, FL. Rather than force the

Bisons to move on June 1 when the Blue Jays head north, Major League Baseball arranged for Buffalo's club to call Trenton home for the foreseeable future.

Trenton had been the Yankees Double-A location for nearly two decades, but the club lost its affiliation and had been moved to the new MLB Draft League; a new venture with six clubs playing 68-game schedules using roster comprised of draft-eligible prospects.

No timetable has been given as to when the Jays might begin playing in Canada again and the arrangement between Buffalo and Trenton will continue in the meantime.

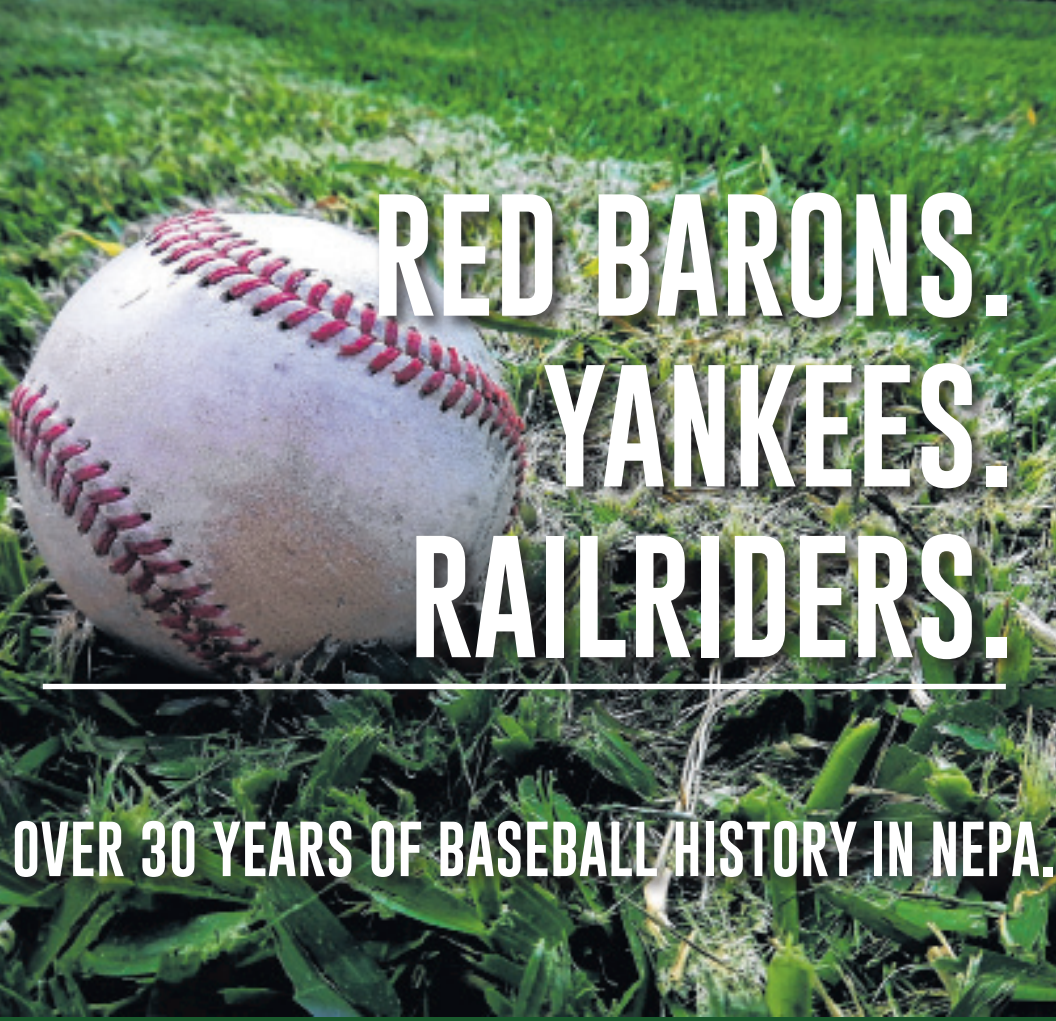
In addition to new leagues to help reduce travel, the schedule has been altered to provide more rest. Every Monday is now an off day for Minor League teams and their weekly schedules will run from Tuesday to Sunday. The RailRiders were originally slated to start play on April 6 with a 142-game schedule. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the expanding ability for people to get vaccinated, among other reasons, the season was delayed four week and opened on May 4.

One quirk of the 2021 version of the schedule, which was reduced to 120 games due to the delay, is that teams will face a limited number of opponents during the season and each series will be a six-game set. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre will only face teams within the Northeast Division this year and will do it for six days at a time. In fact, 30% of the RailRiders 2021 schedule is against their rivals from Lehigh Valley.

The last 15 months have changed quite a bit of how we experience our world. Minor League Baseball has undergone its own set of changes during that time and has created its own version of a "new normal." More change may be in store down the line, including alterations in the rules, which we have seen over the last few years already.

Regardless of the changes, the game of baseball is back and the opportunity to enjoy the game despite everything else going on isn't too far off base.

Those bases, by the way, are now 18 inches instead of 15 inches, but we can get into that later.



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BIG LEAGUE DREAMS: AMBURGEY READIES FOR MLB CHANCE

Outfielder Trey Amburgey played 124 games for the RailRiders in 2019. With Minor League Baseball back in 2021, he is ready to take the next step.

by Joe Vasile

All Trey Amburgey has ever wanted to do in life is be a major league baseball player. His parents remember him picking up a toy bat for the first time at age two and saying as much. Since then, he has been singularly focused on the goal of making the majors.

At the dawn of the 2021 season, the 26-year-old is one step away from realizing that dream. After a successful year with the RailRiders in 2019, Amburgey has started the year strong, hitting three home runs on the season-opening road trip in Syracuse.

But after a year away from competitive baseball because of the COVID-19 pandemic, returning to competitive play in 2021 is an opportunity the RailRiders outfielder is grateful for.

"I can't really describe it," Amburgey said of how it feels to be back playing baseball after the lost year in 2020. "It's like you know your career is not over yet, it just stinks not playing the whole year. Just being able to go back out there again is just like, it's a good feeling to be able to compete and play real games."

In a time where top prospects are coveted by organizations and fans alike, RailRiders outfielder Trey Amburgey has climbed his way through the Yankees farm system without much fanfare. His performance on the field has merited multiple All-Star honors, yet there's little hype around the hard-hitting outfielder.

"That's been my whole thing even kinda through high school and college, kinda under the radar," Amburgey said. "It's frustrating to know I've performed but I still haven't



Credit: Tim Dougherty

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gotten that kinda look, I've kinda learned to live with it and let the chips fall where they may."

In his first season in Triple-A with the RailRiders in 2019, he posted a breakout season, setting career highs in hits, runs, doubles and home runs, while ranking in the top-5 among Yankees minor leaguers in five categories.

While some of that was partially owing to a change in the baseball used in Triple-A during that season, but the underlying numbers show a refined approach at the plate. His walk rate climbed while his strikeouts held steady. That adds up to a selectively aggressive approach that allowed the 24-year-old to post his best season.

"The Yankees gave me a few things to work on at the plate," Amburgey said of his goals for 2021. "Mostly staying on the ball a little bit longer to be able to [go to the opposite field more], and laying off the pitcher's pitch and staying more in my zone."

This kind of performance was what the Yankees imagined when they drafted Amburgey out of St. Petersburg College in the 13th round of the 2015 MLB Draft. His combination of good speed and a power bat made him the kind of player that the Bronx Bombers covet. He has also shown the defensive versatility to man all three outfield spots, though he is most commonly found in left or right field.

During the pandemic, Trey spent time at home keeping himself in shape. The apartment where he and his wife live during the offseason is not far from St. Petersburg College, so when the state of Florida began to open up he would go there and take batting practice.

He also kept busy by adopting a 10-week-old puppy named Kody. "That took a lot of time," he joked.

When spring training rolled around, Amburgey found himself getting plenty of playing time with the Yankees, but was hitless in 10 at-bats. An encouraging sign, though, was that he drew six walks and struck out only five times. All things considered, it wasn't a bad showing for his first games against live competition since 2020 spring training.

Amburgey knows the road is tough for him to break into the major leagues in an already crowded Yankees outfield. New York has built great depth at the position, and even if he does everything the team wants, there is no guarantee that he could crack an outfield in the Bronx that already includes Aaron Judge, Aaron Hicks, Clint Frazier, Giancarlo Stanton and Brett Gardner.

But if the past few seasons have taught him anything, it is to expect the unexpected and always be ready when opportunity knocks. If he focuses on his game and playing well, Amburgey will be in a position to succeed at the next level. And when that call does come, "It would be a dream come true."

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RAILRIDERS RADIO NETWORK

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

Bold Gold Media Group's family of stations has been the home of RailRiders radio broadcasts since 2007.

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders broadcasts

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

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



NEED TO KNOW: SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR PNC FIELD IN PLACE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre has made several updates to policies in accordance with MLB, the CDC and the state of Pennsylvania.

With the 2021 season finally upon us, the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders have set their safety regulations and protocols for fans attending games at PNC Field. These changes have been put in place to help protect everyone at the ballpark, from the fans and staff to the players on the field.

“We want our loyal fans to have the best time possible as they return to PNC Field this year, but that truly requires some changes to how we operate for the best interest of everyone involved with making RailRiders baseball happen,” stated John Adams, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre’s team president. “These protocols and procedure changes are necessary to ensure that our facility remains one of the premier venues in Minor League Baseball. We appreciate the cooperation and understanding from our fans and staff while we ensure that watching a RailRiders game at PNC Field is a safe and enjoyable one.”

Most areas of operations at PNC Field have had policies and procedures updated in accordance with state, CDC and Major League Baseball guidelines. This includes:

Ticketing and Seating

Tickets to RailRiders games this season will now be digital. This helps eliminate contact points for fans and employees, increasing safety as you enter PNC Field. (All Season)

Due to state and CDC guidelines, PNC Field will not open at full capacity at the outset of the season. The RailRiders will incorporate “pod” seating within the ballpark and tickets will be limited based on social distancing guidelines and procedures. Seats in the vicinity of each “pod” will be zip-tied to prevent use and to assist in maintaining proper distancing. (May Only)

Single-game tickets will be available online only at swbrailriders.com. (All Season)

Entry and Exit Points

There will be one gate designated for exit from PNC Field to avoid contact with those entering PNC Field. This gate will be located at the Main Gates, but away from the entry gates. (All Season)

There will be no re-entry allowed into the PNC Field once a guest has exited unless there is a rain delay where fans may exit the stadium during the time of the delay to ensure distancing. (May Only)

Mask Policy

Major League Baseball has enacted a mask policy for the 2021 season and it applies to teams under its Player Development License. All attendees age two years and older will be required to wear a face-covering over their nose

and mouth at all times while on the ballpark property other than when actively eating or drinking at their ticketed seats. Exceptions may be made for attendees who cannot wear face coverings for medical reasons and provide written medical verification. These attendees with proper verification will be wristbanded at gate entrances by security for identification purposes. (All Season)

Cashless Points of Sale

PNC Field will be a fully cashless facility in 2021. This includes all aspects of operation at the ballpark, including parking, ticketing, the SWB Station Team Store and the concession stands and bars. Venues around the country have gone cashless during the pandemic, including nearby ballparks and arenas in Pennsylvania, which has helped minimize health risks by limiting contact. A cashless ballpark should also help minimize wait times. PNC Field will accept credit and debit cards. Additional forms of cashless payment will be available as upgrades are made at each point of sale this season. (All Season)

Bag Policy

Clear bags will be permitted in 2021. In addition, fans may only bring medical bags, diaper bags or small wristlets into the ballpark this season. (All Season)

Concessions

When fans head to the concession stands, they will notice social distancing markers to help keep everyone safe while waiting in line. All concession employees will be required to wear protective gloves and face coverings. Condiments and similar items will be served using pre-packaged servings as opposed to communal displays. (All Season)

Restrooms

Every other urinal will be closed to ensure social distancing. Exterior doors will be propped open to encourage touchless entry/exit. Automatic towel and soap dispensers have also been installed to provide touchless distribution. Restrooms will be cleaned approximately every 30 minutes by PNC Field cleaning staff. (All Season)

Smoking Policy

PNC Field is a smoke-free facility. Designated smoking areas have been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 concerns until social distancing and additional restrictions are lifted. (All Season)

Autographs

Due to MLB, CDC and state distancing guidelines, players will not be signing autographs. . (All Season)

SWB Station Team Store

Capacity inside the team store will be limited to a maximum of 20 guests at a time. The team store footprint will be expanded to the outdoor concourse to allow for social distancing. (All Season)

Buffer Zones

- There will be a 12' buffer zone between the dugouts and assigned seats. (All Season)

All season guidelines will remain in effect unless otherwise updated due to new guidance from the state, CDC or Major League Baseball.








UPCOMING PROMOTIONS



MAY

	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		@SYR 6:35P	@SYR 6:35P	@SYR 6:35P	@SYR 6:35P	@SYR 6:35P
9	10	LHV 1:05P	LHV 6:35P	LHV 6:35P	LHV 6:35P	LHV 4:05P
16	17	LHV 1:05P	@ROC 7:05P	@ROC 1:05P	@ROC 7:05P	@ROC 5:05P
23	24	@ROC 1:05P	BUF 6:35P	BUF 6:35P	BUF 6:35P	BUF 4:05P
30	31	BUF 1:05P				

May

- 11 **OPENING NIGHT with Post Game Fireworks!** 
- 12 **Waggin' Wednesday- Bring your four-legged friends to the park** 
\$1 Hot Dogs for two hours after gates open courtesy of Sabrett
- 13 **Thirsty Thursday- Get \$1 Bud Light drafts & \$1 Pepsi products for two hours**
after gates open presented by  & 
- 14 **Post Game Fireworks!** 
- 15 **4:05 P.M. First Pitch** TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP
Schedule Magnet Giveaway for the first 2,500 fans presented by 
- 16 **1:05 P.M. First Pitch; Geisinger Sunday Family Fun Day** 
- 25 **\$2 Tuesday- Get \$2 Landshark tallboys for two hours after gates open!**
- 26 **Waggin' Wednesday & \$1 Dog Night**
- 27 **Thirsty Thursday**
- 28 **Post Game Fireworks!**
- 29 **4:05 P.M. First Pitch; RailRiders Mask Giveaway for the first 2,500 fans**
- 30 **1:05 P.M. First Pitch; Geisinger Sunday Family Fun Day**

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