



# NOTES FROM A DISTANCE

2008 AL EAST CHAMPIONS | 2008 AL CHAMPIONS | 2010 AL EAST CHAMPIONS | 2011 AL WILD CARD | 2013 AL WILD CARD | 2019 AL WILD CARD

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020

Day 50 Since Major League Baseball's Suspension of Spring Training

## TAMPA BAY RAYS REGULAR SEASON HISTORY

YEAR	RECORD	POS.	PCT.	GB/GA	PLAYOFFS	YEAR	RECORD	POS.	PCT.	GB/GA	PLAYOFFS	YEAR	RECORD	POS.	PCT.	GB/GA	PLAYOFFS
2019	96-66	2nd	.593	7.0	Lost in ALDS	2013	92-71	2nd	.564	5.5	Lost in ALDS	2007	66-96	5th	.407	30.0	--
2018	90-72	3rd	.556	18.0	--	2012	90-72	3rd	.556	5.0	--	2006	61-101	5th	.377	36.0	--
2017	80-82	3rd	.494	13.0	--	2011	91-71	2nd	.562	6.0	Lost in ALDS	2005	67-94	5th	.416	28.0	--
2016	68-94	5th	.420	25.0	--	2010	96-66	1st	.593	1.0	Lost in ALDS	2004	70-91	4th	.435	30.5	--
2015	80-82	4th	.494	13.0	--	2009	84-78	3rd	.519	19.0	--	2003	63-99	5th	.389	38.0	--
2014	77-85	4th	.475	19.0	--	2008	97-65	1st	.599	2.0	Lost in WS	2002	55-106	5th	.342	48.0	--

**TICKET OPTIONS**—With games originally scheduled to be played in March, April, and May impacted by COVID-19, fans with purchased tickets and/or parking passes for those games can receive an account credit to be used toward any 2020 or 2021 Rays home game or a refund...affected ticket holders will be contacted with more information...for additional information including a list of FAQs, please visit [raysbaseball.com/update](https://raysbaseball.com/update).

**MAKING AN IMPACT**—The Rays remain committed to the community and providing assistance to our neighbors in need during this time...in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Rays Baseball Foundation and the Rowdies Soccer Fund is allocating \$1 million in financial support to nonprofit organizations in the Tampa Bay region...last week, the virtual food drive for Feeding Tampa Bay reached its \$400,000 fundraising goal.

- + Every Saturday through May 16, Lot 4 of Tropicana Field (1st Ave S and 17th St) is being used as a drive-thru mobile pantry for Feeding Tampa Bay's Pinellas clients, from 9 a.m.-noon...for details or updates to the schedule, visit [feedingtampabay.org/mobile-pantries](https://feedingtampabay.org/mobile-pantries).
- + For additional information, visit [raysbaseball.com/teamingup](https://raysbaseball.com/teamingup).

**GAMING FOR GOOD**—Blake Snell, playing as the Rays in the MLB The Show Players League, went 24-5 in the round-robin style regular season and earned the No. 1 seed for the postseason, which begins tonight...he will face LAD Gavin Lux (19-10) in the best-of-three quarterfinals, which will air on FOX Sports 1 beginning at 10 p.m. ...best-of-three semifinals are scheduled for tomorrow on ESPN2 (3 p.m.) and FS1 (8 p.m.), while the best-of-five championship series will air Sunday at 2:30 p.m. on ESPN.

- + MLB, the MLBPA and Sony will donate a total of \$175,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs through this effort, with \$5,000 donated on behalf of each player to a Boys & Girls Club affiliate in their community, and an extra \$25,000 going to the local affiliate of the championship player.

**COMFORTS OF HOME**—FOX Sports Sun has unveiled its Rays Classics and Rays Rewinds schedule for May...Classic replays will be televised statewide on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while 2019 Rewinds will air on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays...in advance of tonight's re-air of Game 4 of the 2008 ALDS, FOX Sports Sun reporter **Tricia Whitaker** interviewed **Carlos Peña** to reminisce on the win that sent the Rays to the ALCS...on Monday and Wednesday at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight, FOX Sports Sun will air Games 2 and 3 of the 2008 ALCS, respectively.

- + On Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at both 12 p.m. and midnight, FSS will air the wins from last June 6 at DET and June 7-8 at BOS.
- + Starting next week, WDAE 95.3 FM and 620 AM will rewind to

2008...this begins Wednesday with a re-air of the club's first post-season clinch from Sep 20, 2008, followed by all postseason wins.

- + This week's edition of the *This Week in Rays Baseball* podcast, hosted by Rays Radio's **Neil Solondz**, features **Ryan Yarbrough**, infield prospect **Xavier Edwards** and Spanish broadcaster **Enrique Oliu**...in this week's alumni podcast, Neil catches up with **J.P. Howell**.
- + All-time classic games continue to run on MLB Network...the Rays are included on the MLB Network schedule twice through Mother's Day, albeit on the wrong side of two perfect games: Tuesday at 11 a.m. (**Félix Hernández**) and May 10 at 5:30 p.m. (**Dallas Braden**).

**THE SIMS**—The Rays have claimed an AL East division lead in the Strat-o-Matic simulation of the 2020 season ([strat-o-matic.com](https://strat-o-matic.com)), finishing April with a 21-12 (.636) record, best mark in the AL and a half-game ahead of the Yankees...**Blake Snell** was named April Pitcher of the Month after going 5-0 with a 0.59 ERA...the Rays also lead the AL East in *The Athletic's* simulation—which uses *Out of the Park Baseball*—going 36-22 (.621) through May 28, 2 games ahead of New York...in that simulation, the Rays and Rangers completed a March 25 blockbuster sending INF **Wander Franco**, RH **Brent Honeywell Jr.** and 1B **Nate Lowe** to Texas for RH **Corey Kluber**, RH **José Leclerc** and OF **Joey Gallo**...in that season, Snell is 8-0 with a 1.46 ERA.

**BELATED OPENERS**—If and when baseball returns this season, it would mark the latest Opening Day in modern major league history (since 1901)...the latest date any season has opened was in 1995, when the players' strike delayed the start of the season...that year, the first game (Dodgers at Marlins) was played on April 25, while the last teams to open (Mariners, Indians) both played their lid-lifter on April 27.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**—OF **Austin Meadows** turns 25 on Sunday...last season, Meadows was named co-winner of the Don Zimmer Award as the club's Most Valuable Player...he became the 10th player in franchise history with a 30-HR season, and the 2nd-youngest to do it behind 23-year-old **Evan Longoria** (33) in 2009...his 33 HR were the 2nd-most in the AL by a player age-24 or younger, behind NYY **Gleyber Torres** (38).

**ON THE WEB**—A friendly reminder that the 2020 Rays Media Guide is available at [mlbpressbox.com](https://mlbpressbox.com) (login required), [rayspressbox.com](https://rayspressbox.com) (using username **rays\media** and password **R@ys2020#**) and [mlb.com/rays/team/media-guide](https://mlb.com/rays/team/media-guide) (no login necessary)...hard copies have been printed and will be available for distribution when normal operations resume.

## THIS WEEK IN RAYS HISTORY

MAY 1, 2015	MAY 2, 2003	MAY 3, 1998	MAY 4, 2004	MAY 5, 2015	MAY 6, 2011	MAY 7, 1999
The Rays opened a 3-game series with the Orioles that was moved from Camden Yards to Tropicana Field due to unrest in the city of Baltimore...statistics were recorded as home games for the Rays; however, attendance figures reflected home attendance for the Orioles.	Joe Kennedy threw the first complete game 1-hitter in club history and the Rays won, 2-0, at Tiger Stadium...he allowed a hit to the first batter he faced but none the rest of the way.	Paul Sorrento hit the first grand slam in Rays history and finished with 6 RBI, but Sandy Alomar's two-out grand slam in the bottom of the 9th inning off Roberto Hernández—the first allowed by the Rays—gave the Tribe a 10-8 win.	Geoff Blum became the first Devil Ray to homer from both sides of the plate in the same game and the Rays hit 5 HR to win at Texas, 5-4.	Evan Longoria singled in the 4th inning off Rick Porcello for his 1,000th career hit...the Rays were shut out in Boston, 2-0.	In the Rays 6-2 win over the Orioles at Camden Yards, Brandon Guyer became the first Ray to homer in the first plate appearance of his major league debut...he became the third Ray to homer in his first career at-bat, joining Esteban Yan and Elijah Dukes.	The Rays became the first team in major league history to lose by 9 runs (or more) after holding at least an 8-run lead...the Rays led, 10-2, entering the bottom of the 6th inning before Cleveland scored 4 runs in the 6th inning and 7 runs in both the 7th and 8th to win, 20-11.

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