



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, MARCH 27, 2020

Day 15 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	--

ROSTER MOVES—Yesterday the Rays optioned OF **Randy Arozarena**, LH **Anthony Banda**, INF **Mike Brosseau**, INF **Nate Lowe**, LH/1B **Brendan McKay**, 1B/OF **Brian O’Grady** and RH **Trevor Richards** to the minor leagues...in addition, they acquired minor league INF **Esteban Quiroz** (key-ROHS) from the Padres to complete the OF **Tommy Pham** trade...the Rays also resolved two trades with the Reds, receiving cash considerations for RH **José De León** and sending cash to Cincinnati for O’Grady.

IN THE COMMUNITY—Anticipating shortages in the county-wide response to COVID-19, Pinellas County is running a supply donation event at Lot 4 of Tropicana Field (198 17th St. S.)...drop-offs began on Thursday and are open until 7 p.m. tonight, or tomorrow (Saturday) from 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m. ...they are collecting personal protective equipment and disinfectants to be delivered to hospitals, first responders and more...for more specifics on items requested, visit stpete.org/emergency/covid-19.php.

- + Last week the Rays and their concessions partner, Levy, donated 20 pallets of food and beverage from Tropicana Field, Charlotte Sports Park and Al Lang Stadium to Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa...the products donated included produce, meats, bakery items, dairy products and more, with a value of over \$175,000.
- + The Rays have provided the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay with a \$2,000 matching gift to their emergency fund.

COMFORTS OF HOME—Rays Radio broadcasters **Dave Wills**, **Andy Freed** and **Neil Solondz** recorded eight PSAs urging fans to practice social distancing...these will air before, during and after 2019 game broadcasts re-airing on WDAE 95.3 FM and 620 AM...tomorrow at noon, WDAE will re-air the Rays 5-4, 11-inning win from last Sep 20 vs. BOS, and on Sunday at 1 p.m., WDAE will re-air the club's 5-4, 11-inning victory from Sep 21 vs. BOS.

- + FOX Sports Sun is airing every Rays victory from 2019 in succession...tonight at 7 p.m., they will air the game from April 9 at CWS...tomorrow at noon and 8 p.m., they will air April 10 at CWS...Sunday at 9 a.m., noon and 4 p.m., they will air April 12 at TOR.
- + Tonight at 8:00, **Blake Snell** will compete with three others (MIN **Trevor May**, CIN **Amir Garrett**, SF **Hunter Pence**) in a MLB The Show tournament...each game will be 5 innings, with the event lasting two hours...it will be livestreamed on MLB.com and the social media accounts of MLB, MLB The Show and the players' clubs.

DISRUPTED SCHEDULE—On March 12, Major League Baseball announced the suspension of the remainder of spring training and the delay of the 2020 regular season due to the coronavirus pandemic...on March 16, MLB pushed back the start of the season until mid-May at the earliest after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended restricting events of more than 50 people for the next eight weeks.

- + Within a stretch of 24 hours on March 11-12, the NBA, NHL, MLB, NCAA, MLS, ATP Tour, WTA and PGA Tour suspended, delayed or canceled the remainder of their seasons...according to the Elias Sports Bureau, the days since then marks the first time since the 1994 MLB players' strike that there have been no MLB, NBA, NHL or NFL games for at least seven consecutive days...that year, there were 23 straight days without those sports from Aug 12–Sep 3.
- + The Elias Sports Bureau also notes the last time there were no MLB, NBA, NHL or NFL games during the month of April was 1883.
- + MLB has yet to determine its start date...it's worth noting that in modern baseball history (since 1901), there have been six seasons shortened for a variety of reasons...special thanks to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum for the research assistance:

SIX SHORTENED SEASONS, MODERN BASEBALL HISTORY					
YEAR	SCHEDULE IMPACT	CAUSE	OPENING DAY	WS END	
1918 ^[1]	154 to 140 to ~127 G	World War I	April 15	Sep 11	
1919 ^[2]	154 to 140 G	World War I, Spanish Flu	April 19	Oct 9	
1972 ^[3]	162 to ~155 G	Players' strike	April 15	Oct 22	
1981 ^[4]	162 to ~107 G	Players' strike	April 8	Oct 28	
1994 ^[5]	162 to ~114 G	Players' strike	April 3	N/A	
1995 ^[6]	162 to 144 G	Players' strike	April 25	Oct 28	

FOOTNOTES—See below for circumstances causing shortened seasons:

- + ^[1] In 1917, the United States declared war on Germany five days before Opening Day—but MLB played the full season as planned...in 1918, the owners originally shortened the season to 140 games, but with most of the league's players either drafted or enlisted by the start of July, they reduced it again to ~127 games per team.
- + ^[2] The season was again shortened, to 140 games, as players re-

turned home from the war while an outbreak of Spanish influenza swept the globe...the Spanish flu killed at least 50 million people worldwide, including 675,000 in the United States...among those killed were 17-year American League umpire **Silk O’Loughlin**, former big league OF **Larry Chappell** and several minor leaguers.

- + ^[3] Led by **Marvin Miller**, the MLBPA went on its first-ever strike, wiping out the first 13 days of the season...teams played anywhere from 153-156 games, leading to controversy when the Tigers (86-70) edged the Red Sox (85-70) by a half-game in the AL East.
- + ^[4] The MLBPA strike began on June 12 and cost more than a third of the season...play resumed with the All-Star Game at Cleveland’s Municipal Stadium on Aug 9, and games began the next day...a split-season postseason format was employed, with division winners from the two “halves” playing each other before the LCS.
- + ^[5] The MLBPA began its strike on Aug 12, and the remainder of the season was eventually canceled...1994 remains the only season since 1904 without a World Series...at the time of the strike, the Montreal Expos owned baseball’s best record with a 74-40 mark.
- + ^[6] After 232 days, a missed World Series and only three days away from opening the regular season with replacement players, the longest strike in major league history ended on April 2...Opening Day was postponed by three weeks, allowing for a short spring training, and all teams played a 144-game schedule.

OTHER NOTABLE LEAGUE-WIDE DISRUPTIONS—In addition to the six shortened seasons, there have been several occasions where the schedule was disrupted across MLB...special thanks to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum for the research assistance...among those events:

- + **1923 Death of President Harding:** MLB canceled its games on Aug 3, one day after the death of **Warren G. Harding** in San Francisco, and again on Aug 10, the day he was laid to rest in Marion, Ohio.
- + **June 6, 1944 (D-Day):** MLB canceled its scheduled games the day of the Allied invasion of Normandy in World War II.
- + **1945 Death of President Roosevelt:** FDR passed away on April 12...Opening Day was pushed back a day, from April 16 to April 17.
- + **1968 Death of Martin Luther King Jr.:** After the April 4 assassination of Dr. King, Commissioner **William Eckert** left the decision up to individual clubs of whether to postpone their Opening Days, scheduled for April 8-9...after much debate and player objection, each club decided to wait until after Dr. King’s April 9 funeral, and open on April 10.
- + **1985 Players' Strike:** A two-day strike in August had minimal effect on the season...teams made up their missed games later.
- + **1990 Owners' Lockout:** This 32-day lockout began in February and eliminated almost all of spring training...a new basic agreement was reached on March 19...Opening Day was pushed back a week to April 9, and three days were added to the end of the season to help make up games, but a full 162-game schedule was played.
- + **2001 Terrorist Attacks:** After the Sep 11 terrorist attacks, MLB suspended play for a week and resumed playing on Sep 17...the remaining schedule was pushed back by a week, resulting in Game 7 of the World Series being played on Nov 4.

BELATED OPENERS—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) played their lid-lifter on April 27...other than 1995, the latest start to any MLB season was on April 20, 1943 (Philadelphia Athletics at Washington Senators) and the latest opener for any team was April 26, 1901 (Senators at Athletics and Baltimore Orioles at Boston Americans)...the latest opener in Rays history was April 7, 2009 at BOS, a 5-3 win.

UPCOMING DAYS IN RAYS HISTORY—On March 28, 2019, in the earliest Opening Day game in club history, the Rays lost, 5-1, to the Astros and their only run came when **Austin Meadows** hit the fourth pitch from **Justin Verlander** out to left-center for his first career leadoff homer.

- + On March 29, 2018, the Rays overcame a 4-0 deficit in a 6-4, Opening Day win over the Red Sox...according to the Elias Sports Bureau, it was the first time the Rays won after trailing by 4 runs (or more) in the 8th inning or later since “Game 162” in 2011.
- + On March 30, 2004, the Rays defeated the Yankees, 8-3, on Opening Day in Tokyo, Japan...the game marked the second time that Major League Baseball played regular season games in Japan.