



# 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, APRIL 24, 2020

Day 43 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	--

**GOOOOOOAL!**—Yesterday the virtual food drive for Feeding Tampa Bay, helping those in need during the COVID-19 crisis, reached its \$400,000 fundraising goal...with this campaign, Feeding Tampa Bay reached their own milestone of 500 million meals distributed in their history...the Rays Baseball Foundation and Rowdies Soccer Fund donated 2.5 million meals by kicking off the campaign with a \$100,000 donation, and matching donations up to an additional \$150,000...fans are still encouraged to join the campaign by purchasing essential food items or making a monetary donation at [donate.feedingtampabay.org/teamingup](http://donate.feedingtampabay.org/teamingup)...currently, the drive has raised \$411,100.

- + 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](http://feedingtampabay.org/mobile-pantries).

**MAKING AN IMPACT**—The Rays Baseball Foundation and Rowdies Soccer Fund is donating \$100,000 to the City of St. Petersburg's Fighting Chance Fund to help offset the significant loss of revenue during the global pandemic...the fund will provide critical financial support to locally owned and independently operated small businesses and their employees...for more information, including how to apply for a Fighting Chance Fund grant, please visit [stpete.org/assistance/fighting\\_chance\\_fund.php](http://stpete.org/assistance/fighting_chance_fund.php).

- + Food, beverage and retail partner Levy has donated six pallets of food and drink, valued at \$15,000, to the St. Pete Free Clinic.

**RELATED 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) 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.

**DISRUPTED SCHEDULE**—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 due to the COVID-19 pandemic...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...Elias also notes that 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.
- + For more information regarding the circumstances causing shortened seasons, please refer to the March 27 notes on [rayspressbox.com](http://rayspressbox.com) (using username [rays\media](http://rayspressbox.com) and password [R@ys2020#](http://rayspressbox.com)).

## SIX SHORTENED SEASONS, MODERN BASEBALL HISTORY

YEAR	SCHEDULE IMPACT	CAUSE	OPENING DAY	WS END
1918	154 to 140 to ~127 G	World War I	April 15	Sep 11
1919	154 to 140 G	World War I, Spanish Flu	April 19	Oct 9
1972	162 to ~155 G	Players' strike	April 15	Oct 22
1981	162 to ~107 G	Players' strike	April 8	Oct 28
1994	162 to ~114 G	Players' strike	April 3	N/A
1995	162 to 144 G	Players' strike	April 25	Oct 28

**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 were the 1923 Death of President Harding, D-Day (June 6, 1944), 1945 Death of President Roosevelt, 1968 Death of Martin Luther King Jr., 1985 Players' Strike, 1990 Owners' Lockout and 2001 Terrorist Attacks...additional information on these disruptions can also be found on [rayspressbox.com](http://rayspressbox.com).

**COMFORTS OF HOME**—FOX Sports Sun continues to re-air every Rays victory from last season in succession...the next broadcast is Sunday at noon, 4 p.m. and midnight, of the 4-3, 11-inning win from May 29 vs. TOR, when **Willy Adames** hit a walk-off single...these will complement "Rays Classics," which continues tonight at 7 p.m. with **Matt Garza's** no-hitter from July 26, 2010 vs. DET...on Monday at noon and Wednesday at noon, FOX Sports Sun will air Games 1 and 2 of the 2008 ALDS, respectively.

- + WDAE 95.3 FM and 620 AM is re-airing Rays wins from last season every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m. and every Saturday and Sunday at noon...tonight, tomorrow and Sunday are the games from April 8 at CWS, April 9 at CWS and April 10 at CWS.
- + This week's edition of the *This Week in Rays Baseball* podcast, hosted by Rays Radio's **Neil Solondz**, features **Mike Zunino**, Spanish broadcaster **Ricardo Taveras** and Rays Baseball Foundation executive director **Stephen Thomas**...this week's alumni podcast, which was released this morning, features 2011 All-Star **James Shields**, who remains the club's all-time leader in wins, starts and innings.
- + **Austin Meadows** will join Pat & Aaron on WDAE today at 1 p.m.

**GO GREEN**—The celebration of Earth Day every April 22 serves as a reminder of the league-wide effort to go green and maintain environmentally friendly practices at all 30 ballparks...[MLB.com](http://MLB.com) provided over 100 sustainability facts its 30 clubs practice during the season...among them:

- + The Rays are engaged with BayWatch, and their employees volunteer to plant sea grass beds and on other projects to restore Tampa;
- + The Rays have retrofitted 95 percent of all stadium light fixtures throughout Tropicana Field, replacing over 700 metal halide lights with energy efficient LED lighting during the 2019 season...this has provided them better reliability and conserved energy.

**GAMING FOR GOOD**—**Blake Snell**, playing as the Rays in the *MLB The Show* Players League, ranks 2nd overall at 14-3 behind **TEX Joey Gallo** (19-4)...beginning tonight at 9 p.m. Snell faces **SEA Carl Edwards Jr.**, **OAK Jesús Luzardo**, **DET Niko Goodrum**, **ATL Luke Jackson** and **MIL Josh Hader**...updated standings, schedule, stats and results are available at [mlb.com/playersleague](http://mlb.com/playersleague)...the two-week regular season schedule features 29 three-inning games, round-robin style, followed by a postseason similar to the MLB format...fans can watch streams of games throughout the season on a variety of digital platforms, including Twitch and YouTube.

- + 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.
- + Select games from the final 10 days of the Players League, including the playoff tournament, will be broadcast on ESPN, ESPN2, FS1 and MLB Network...the playoffs are scheduled to begin on May 1.
- + Last night Snell continued his weekly takeover of MLB's Instagram Live, with special guest **Cam Jordan** of the New Orleans Saints.

**THE SIMS**—In Major League Baseball's Dream Bracket presented by DraftKings, the AL No. 14 seed Rays lost to the No. 2 seed Athletics in the first round...in the best-of-seven *Out of the Park Baseball* simulation series, the Rays won both Game 1 and Game 2 but lost the next four.

- + Since the 2020 season is on hold, the Baseball-Reference team is using *Out of the Park Baseball 21* to simulate the 2020 season...through April 24, the simulated Rays are 11-16, 3rd in the AL East.

## THIS WEEK IN RAYS HISTORY

APRIL 24, 2005	APRIL 25, 2018	APRIL 26, 2012	APRIL 27, 2002	APRIL 28, 2011	APRIL 29, 2018	APRIL 30, 2003
Tension boiled over at Tropicana Field between the Devil Rays and Red Sox...in the final game of a 3-game series, seven batters were beaned, leading to two bench-clearing incidents...six Devil Rays and Red Sox were ejected from the contest, a 11-3 Boston win.	Jonny Venters retired his only batter faced in the 6th inning of a 8-4 win in Baltimore...it was his first appearance since the NL Wild Card Game on Oct 5, 2012 (with ATL)...he became the second pitcher ever to return to the majors after three Tommy John surgeries.	Brandon Allen belted a pinch-hit, walk-off homer off Jordan Walden in his first official at-bat with the Rays to defeat the Angels, 4-3...it was the fourth pinch-hit, walk-off homer in franchise history...Allen was claimed off waivers from the Athletics on April 19.	The Devil Rays were no-hit by Derek Lowe, the first no-hitter against them in franchise history...it was the first no-hitter at Fenway Park since Dave Morehead on Sep 16, 1965 vs. CLE...Brent Abernathy was the Rays only baserunner, drawing a 3rd-inning walk in the 10-0 loss.	Ben Zobrist combined to go 7-for-10 in a doubleheader sweep at Minnesota...his 8 RBI in the first game remain a single-game club record, and he finished the day with 10 RBI...he was the fourth player since 1920 to collect at least 7 hits and 10 RBI in a single day.	The Rays snapped an 8-game winning streak with a 4-3 loss in Boston...despite this, they finished the game with a major-league-best .271 avg., the latest into a season they have ever led the majors in hitting.	Rocco Baldelli homered off Brad Radke, the first of his career, and finished the day with 5 RBI...his 2 hits in the game set a major league rookie record for the most hits (40) through April...the Devil Rays lost, 8-5, to the Twins.

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