



# RAYS SPRING BREAKOUT GAME NOTES

AL CHAMPIONS: 2020, 2008 | AL EAST CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2020, 2010, 2008 | AL WILD CARD: 2023, 2022, 2019, 2013, 2011

## TAMPA BAY RAYS PROSPECTS vs. BOSTON RED SOX PROSPECTS

Thur., March 13, 2025 • First Pitch: 7:05 p.m. ET • Location: Charlotte Sports Park (Port Charlotte, Fla.)

TV: MLB Network, FanDuel Sports Network App • Radio: MLB.com

**RHP JACKSON BAUMEISTER**  
2024 Stats: 3-3 • 2.53 ERA



**LHP CONNELLY EARLY**  
2024 Stats: 3-9 • 3.99 ERA

**BREAKING OUT OF THEIR SHELL**—Tonight, the Tampa Bay Rays Prospects host the Boston Red Sox Prospects at Charlotte Sports Park in the 2025 Spring Breakout...from March 13-16, the future of baseball will be on display with games between the top prospects in each farm system competing across Grapefruit and Cactus League ballparks...this is the second season of the Spring Breakout following last year's inaugural edition...unlike last season, all games this year will be nine innings rather than seven.

**ON THE AIRWAVES**—Tonight's game will be broadcast on MLB Network and the FanDuel Sports Network app, with Rays radio announcer **Andy Freed** and MLB.com's **Jim Callis** on the call...an audio feed will be available on MLB.com with Rays radio announcer **Neil Solondz** and FanDuel Sports Sun analyst **Doug Waechter**...the duo will be joined in the booth by Montgomery Biscuits broadcaster **Jack Sadighian** and Bowling Green Hot Rods play-by-play voice **Riley Edwards**.

**RECENT TRANSACTIONS**—Following today's 14-4 Grapefruit League win over the Nationals, the Rays reassigned **RHP Cole Wilcox** to minor league camp and released **LHP Jake Brentz**...the club now has 57 players in major league camp, including 19 non-roster invites.

**ONE YEAR AGO**...—In last year's Spring Breakout, the Rays Prospects traveled to Fort Myers to face the Twins Prospects, playing to an 8-8 tie...**INF Xavier Isaac** went 3-for-3 with three extra-base hits, including a double and a pair of home runs, with one walk, 4 RBI and three runs scored...**INF Tre Morgan** and **OF Mason Auer** each added 2 RBI in the contest...**RHP Evan Reifert** (1.0IP, BB), **RHP Austin Vernon** (1.0IP, H), **LHP Keyshawn Askew** (1.0IP, 2SO) and **RHP Alfredo Zarraga** (1.0IP, 2SO) combined to pitch the last four innings of the game and allow two baserunners with no runs allowed.

\* Nine players on the Rays Prospects roster tonight also played in the 2024 Spring Breakout against Minnesota...those players include **RHP Trevor Martin**, **RHP Austin Vernon**, **C Kenny Piper**, **INF Cooper Kinney**, **INF Carson Williams**, **INF Brayden Taylor**, **INF Adrian Santana**, **OF Chandler Simpson** and **OF Colton Ledbetter**...**INF Junior Caminero** is the lone Rays player that appeared in last year's Spring Breakout game and appeared in games for the Rays during the 2024 major league season.

**HOMEGROWN PRODUCTS**—Of the 25 players on the Rays roster, 16 (64.0%) are homegrown, meaning they were drafted or signed as an amateur free agent...15 (60.0%) prospects on the roster have also spent time in major league camp and/or appeared in games with the Rays this spring: **RHP Paul Gervase**, **RHP JJ Goss**, **RHP Jack Hartman**, **RHP Trevor Martin**, **RHP Austin Vernon**, **C Kenny Piper**, **INF Cooper Kinney**, **INF Emilien Pitre**, **INF Adrian Santana**, **INF Bob Seymour**, **INF Brayden Taylor**, **INF Carson Williams**, **OF Homer Bush Jr.**, **OF Matthew Etzel** and **OF Chandler Simpson**.

**DOWN ON THE FARM**—The Rays enter the 2025 campaign with the No. 6 ranked farm system in the game, according to *Baseball America*...it marks their eighth consecutive season ranked within the publication's top 10 farm systems and their 18th top-10 appearance in 25 rankings since the first list was released in 2001...six Rays prospects were listed among the top 100 in baseball: **INF Carson Williams** (No. 11), **INF Brayden Taylor** (No. 65), **INF Tre Morgan** (No. 80), **INF Xavier Isaac** (No. 87), **RHP Trevor Harrison** (No. 90) and **RHP Gary Gill Hill** (No. 94)...it ties the Dodgers for the second-most top-100 prospects behind the Mariners (7).

**COMING DOWN THE PIPELINE**—Last week, the Rays farm system was tabbed as second best in the majors behind the Tigers in MLB.com's annual preseason rankings...it signaled the club's highest ranking since 2021 (No. 1) and their eighth straight appearance within the top six (since 2018)...Tampa Bay's system features five players ranked inside the MLB Top 100: **INF Carson Williams** (No. 9), **INF Xavier Isaac** (No. 51), **INF Brayden Taylor** (No. 67), **INF Tre Morgan** (No. 93) and **OF Theo Gillen** (No. 99)...the club's top-ranked pitchers were **RHP Brody Hopkins** and **RHP Santiago Suarez**, who were tabbed eighth and ninth, respectively...two 80 grades were handed out amongst the prospects, with **OF Chandler Simpson** and **OF Homer Bush Jr.** each receiving the grade for their speed.

\* The Rays roster was ranked by MLB.com as third best across all Spring Breakout games, trailing only the Red Sox and White Sox...each of the organization's five players in the MLB Top 100 and nine of the organization's top 10 prospects are featured on the roster.

\* Only six farm systems have five players or more ranked in the MLB Top 100 Prospect rankings...the Cubs and Mariners tied for the most with seven, the Dodgers and Tigers tied for third with six, and the Rays and Reds tied for fifth most with five.

**JACKSON FROM JACKSONVILLE**—Tonight's starting pitcher is **RHP Jackson Baumeister**...2024 was his first professional season after being drafted by Baltimore in Competitive Balance Round B of the 2023 First-Year Player Draft...he began the year with Class-A Aberdeen but was traded to the Rays alongside **OF Matthew Etzel** and **OF Mac Horvath** for **RHP Zach Eflin** on July 26...over 25 appearances (23GS) on the season, he went 3-3 with a 2.53 ERA (99.2IP, 28ER) and .186 (65-for-350) opp. average...min. 95.0 IP, his 2.53 ERA ranked 11th among all Class-A pitchers...after joining Class-A Bowling Green, he went 2-0 with a 1.24 ERA (29.0 IP, 4ER) with a 0.59 WHIP and a .122 average against (12-for-98).

**WHERE THERE'S A WILL (IAMS), THERE'S A WAY**—**INF Carson Williams**, the Rays top prospect (*Baseball America* & MLB.com), is a non-roster invite to major league camp for the first time...in 10 games this spring, Williams has slashed .269/.321/.423 with 2 2B, 1 3B, 1 RBI, 1 R and 2 BB...he has also played 57.0 innings at shortstop without committing an error...in 2024, he played in 115 games with Double-A Montgomery and batted .256 (111-for-433) with 20 2B, 6 3B, 20 HR, 69 RBI, 83 R and 33 SB...he paced the Southern League in RBI, runs and triples (tied) while ranking second in slugging pct. (.469), extra-base hits (46) and OPS (.835)...Williams was named MiLB Defensive Player of the Year, Top MLB Prospect in the SL and a SL postseason All-Star by MLB.com...*Baseball America* tabbed him as a minor league and Double-A All-Star...in the publication's Best Tools survey, he was named the Best Defensive Infielder and Best Infield Arm in the Rays organization while being credited as the Best Infield Arm and Most Exciting Player in the Southern League.

\* Williams was the only player at the Double-A level and one of 11 in full-season minor leaguers with 20 home runs or more and 20 stolen bases or more in 2024.

**TAYLOR'S VERSION**—Across nine Grapefruit League games, **INF Brayden Taylor** is batting .308 (4-for-13) with 1 2B, 1 HR, 2 RBI, 1 BB, 2 R, a .333 on-base pct. and a .615 slugging pct. ...he appeared in 84 games for Class-A Bowling Green and 30 games for Double-A Montgomery in 2024...between the two, he hit .250 (106-for-424) with 27 2B, 8 3B, 20 HR, 62 RBI and 29 SB...he joined **INF Carson Williams** as one of 11 full-season minor leaguers with 20 home runs or more and 20 stolen bases or more in 2024...among players in the South Atlantic League with at least 80 games played, he ranked first in OPS (.902), first in slugging pct. (.513) and second in on-base pct. (.389).

**100 BAGS AND RUNNING**—After finishing tied for the most stolen bases (94) in the minor leagues in 2023, **OF Chandler Simpson** collected 104 in 2024...he became the first player since **Billy Hamilton** and **Delino DeShields** in 2012 to reach triple-digit steals in a minor league season...min. 400 PA, Simpson led the minors in average and ranked highly in runs scored (T14th, 90) and on-base pct. (.16th, .410) while recording the third fewest strikeouts.

\* This spring, Simpson has hit .286 (6-for-21) with two stolen bases in as many attempts across nine games.

**A SUAREZ SOIRÉE**—Ranked ninth in the Rays' Top 30 Prospects list, **RHP Santiago Suarez** is the top-ranked pitcher in the Rays organization...the right-hander made 23 starts for Class-A Charleston last season to a 7-6 record, 4.11 ERA (111.2IP, 51ER) and six quality starts...during the month of June, he went 2-1 with a 1.96 ERA (23.0IP, 5ER) in four starts...over those four starts, he went at least five innings in each and allowed two hits or fewer in three of them...he previously was a *Baseball America* Rookie All-Star, FCL Pitcher of the Year and FCL Post-Season All-Star with the FCL Rays in 2023.

**SAME GAME, NEW COLORS**—During the 2024 Spring Breakout, **OF Matthew Etzel** appeared for the Orioles Prospects against the Pirates Prospects...he went 0-for-1 after replacing BAL **Billy Cook**...he was acquired alongside fellow Spring Breakout teammate **RHP Jackson Baumeister** and **OF Mac Horvath** from Baltimore in exchange for **RHP Zach Eflin**...he appeared in 36 games for Double-A Montgomery and batted .232 (29-for-125) with three doubles, one triple and five home runs.

**GILL IS ON TOP OF THE HILL**—In his first full season with Class-A Charleston, **RHP Gary Gill Hill** made 22 appearances (21GS) and earned a 4-4 record, 3.15 ERA (108.2IP, 38ER) and a .235 opp. average (94-for-400)...seven of his 21 starts were quality starts and in 12 of his 13 starts with five innings or more, he allowed three runs or fewer...in nine starts from May 7-June 27, he went 3-0 with a 1.89 ERA (47.2IP, 10ER) and a 0.88 WHIP...during that span, he also tallied 50 strikeouts to six walks...he was named a 2024 Carolina League Post-Season All-Star and a *Baseball America* Low Class-A All-Star.

**AUSTIN NOT TEXAS**—**RHP Austin Vernon** has made three appearances this spring for the Rays...he has not allowed an earned run over 2.1 innings of work with no hits allowed...he has faced seven batters with five ending in a strikeout and two with a walk...his last appearance was 0.1 innings with a strikeout against the Mets on March 1.

\* He made a career-high 46 appearances for Double-A Montgomery last season with nine saves in 14 opportunities...opposing hitters slashed .232/.344/.374 against him with 66 strikeouts and 29 walks.



### RAYS SPRING BREAKOUT ROSTER

PITCHERS	TOP 30 RANK
17 Jackson Baumeister	14
62 Derrick Edington	
82 Paul Gervase	
36 Gary Gill Hill	12
18 JJ Goss	
21 Trevor Harrison	11
99 Jack Hartman	
54 Trevor Martin	
91 Santiago Suarez	9
85 Austin Vernon	

CATCHERS	TOP 30 RANK
20 Nathan Flewelling	
71 J.D. Gonzalez	
76 Kenny Piper	

INFIELDERS	TOP 30 RANK
8 Cooper Kinney	24
4 Émilien Pitre	23
6 Adrian Santana	19
90 Bob Seymour	
65 Will Simpson	30
93 Brayden Taylor	3
65 Carson Williams	1

OUTFIELDERS	TOP 30 RANK
34 Homer Bush Jr.	17
78 Matthew Etzel	27
10 Colton Ledbetter	26
29 Noah Myers	
96 Chandler Simpson	7

### BASBALL AMERICA RAYS TOP PROSPECTS

1. **INF Carson Williams**
2. **INF Brayden Taylor**
3. **INF Tre' Morgan**
4. **INF Xavier Isaac**
5. **RHP Trevor Harrison**
6. **RHP Gary Gill Hill**
7. **RHP Santiago Suarez**
8. **OF Chander Simpson**
9. **OF Brailier Guerrero**
10. **OF Theo Gillen**
11. **RHP Brody Hopkins**
12. **OF Aidan Smith**
13. **RHP Jackson Baumeister**
14. **INF Émilien Pitre**
15. **LHP Ian Seymour**

Bolded names denote Spring Breakout participants

### MLB.COM FARM SYSTEM RANKINGS

1. Detroit
2. **Tampa Bay**
3. **Boston**
4. Los Angeles-NL
5. Seattle
6. Chicago-AL
7. Milwaukee
8. Chicago-NL
9. Cleveland
10. Minnesota

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