



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 3, 2020

Day 22 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	--	2001	62-100	5th	.383	34.0	--
2018	90-72	3rd	.556	18.0	--	2012	90-72	3rd	.556	5.0	--	2006	61-101	5th	.377	36.0	--	2000	69-92	5th	.429	18.0	--
2017	80-82	3rd	.494	13.0	--	2011	91-71	2nd	.562	6.0	Lost in ALDS	2005	67-94	5th	.416	28.0	--	1999	69-93	5th	.426	29.0	--
2016	68-94	5th	.420	25.0	--	2010	96-66	1st	.593	1.0	Lost in ALDS	2004	70-91	4th	.435	30.5	--	1998	63-99	5th	.414	51.0	--
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	--						

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE—Yesterday the Rays announced that the Rays Baseball Foundation and Rowdies Soccer Fund will donate up to 2.5 million meals to Feeding Tampa Bay to help those in need during the COVID-19 crisis...they donated 1 million meals to kick off the campaign, and will match all donations made through the virtual food drive webpage up to an additional 1.5 million meals...fans are encouraged to join the campaign by visiting donate.feedingtampabay.org/TeamingUp, where they can purchase essential food items from a shopping list or make a monetary donation...see separate press release for more information.

PIZZA FOR THE FRONT LINES—The Rays and Papa John's are teaming up to deliver pizzas to frontline workers at St. Anthony's Hospital, Moffitt Cancer Center and St. Pete Fire Departments to thank them for their hard work in keeping the community safe...they are delivering to St. Anthony's and St. Pete Fire Departments today, and to Moffitt on Monday.

YOU ARE APPRECIATED—Each night from 7:30-11:30, the roof of Tropicana Field is illuminated with red, white and blue LED lights...the Rays began doing this on Tuesday night (March 31) as a show of solidarity, to honor the many healthcare workers among us who are working hard to save lives while the rest of the community stays at home.

GIRL MEETS WORLD—Congratulations to Rays catcher **Mike Zunino** and his wife, **Alyssa**, on the birth of daughter, **Paisley Grace**...she was born on March 28 at 4:29 a.m., weighing 6 lbs. and 11 oz. ...the couple welcomed their first child, son **Rhett Michael**, in April of last year.

DISRUPTED SCHEDULE—Major League Baseball, in line with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, has postponed the start of the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic...while the start of the season has been delayed due to the CDC guidelines, no games have been canceled...MLB is working on a variety of contingency plans with the hope of resuming normal operations as soon as possible...for additional updates, please visit <http://raysbaseball.com/update> as we work with MLB during this time.

- + 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.

COMFORTS OF HOME—FOX Sports Sun continues to re-air every Rays victory from last season in succession...tomorrow at noon and 5 p.m., they will air the 5-2 win from April 23 vs. KC...on Sunday at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m, they will air the 2-1 win from April 27 at BOS, which included a **Yandy Díaz** leadoff homer...on Monday at 9 a.m. and noon, they will air the 5-2 win from April 28 at BOS, when **Tyler Glasnow** improved to 5-0.

- + WDAE 95.3 FM and 620 AM is re-airing some of the best Rays wins from last season...tonight at 7 p.m., WDAE will air the 4-1 win from

July 14 at BAL, when Rays pitchers retired their first 24 BF...tomorrow at noon will be the 5-4 win from July 15 at NYY, when **Travis d'Arnaud** hit 3 HR including a go-ahead, 3-run homer in the 9th...Sunday at noon will be the 1-0 win from Aug 11 at SEA.

- + When games begin, the Rays Radio Network will feature a new Spanish radio affiliate, WMGG 1470 AM, for weekend games.

REMEMBER TO VOTE—The Rays Radio Twitter account, @RaysRadio, continues its search for the greatest moment in the Rays era (since 2008)...the bracket started with a field of 68 and is down to the Final Four, of which voting started today...one side of the bracket puts **Dan Johnson's** Sep 9, 2008 pinch-hit home run off of **Jonathan Papelbon** against the 2008 ALCS win over the Red Sox...the other side is a battle between Game 162 home runs: Johnson's 9th-inning shot and **Evan Longoria's** walk-off.

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

UPCOMING DAYS IN RAYS HISTORY—In a 7-0 win on April 3, 2000, **Gerald Williams** hit the first pitch of the season for a home run at Minnesota off of **Brad Radke** in the Rays first-ever Opening Day victory.

- + On April 4, 1998, **Frank Thomas** became the first player to hit a Tropicana Field catwalk...the White Sox slugger and 2014 Hall of Fame inductee hit a drive off the B-ring for a homer off **Dennis Springer**...the ball struck the catwalk above the foul pole and led to a long discussion...Manager **Larry Rothschild** played the game under protest claiming the ball was foul...the Rays lost, 8-2, and the stadium ground rules were later changed as a result of the homer.
- + On April 5, 2016, the Rays won, 3-2, over Toronto and it came in unprecedented fashion when **José Bautista's** attempt to break up a double play in the 9th inning was challenged by the Rays and overturned as a violation of the new slide rule [6.01(j)]...it was the first game ever to end due to an overturn of the new slide rule...after the overturn, the play was ruled a game-ending GIDP.

TWO DISTINCT ERAS—Since becoming the Rays in 2008, the Rays have seven 90-win seasons, a number matched by only three other teams in baseball: the Dodgers (8), Red Sox (7) and Yankees (7)...since the start of 2008, their five trips to the Division Series have been matched by only five other clubs and their 1,041-904 (.535) record is 5th-best in baseball.

- + The Rays enter the 2020 season on the heels of a 96-66 (.593) record—their second straight season with 90-plus wins—and a trip to the AL Division Series...they welcome back all three of their 2019 All-Stars—RH **Charlie Morton**, OF **Austin Meadows** and 2B **Brandon Lowe**—as well as three-time Gold Glove Award winner **Kevin Kiermaier** and 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner **Blake Snell**.
- + A retooled offense includes trade acquisitions OF **Hunter Renfroe**, 1B/DH **José Martínez**, OF **Randy Arozarena** and OF **Manuel Margot** and Japanese free agent signing 3B/OF **Yoshi Tsutsugo**.

TAMPA BAY RAYS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

ONE TROPICANA DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705 | 727-825-3242 | @RAYSPR