



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 15, 2020

Day 64 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	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	--						

MAKING AN IMPACT—The Rays Baseball Foundation and Rowdies Soccer Fund is accepting applications for the COVID-19 Relief Grant program through May 31...organizations with 501(c)(3) status and a focus on hunger relief, shelter and/or health and wellness and that have been impacted by COVID-19 are eligible to apply...the RBF and RSF is allocating \$1 million to nonprofit organizations in the region in response to the COVID-19 crisis... for more information or to apply, visit raysbaseball.com/teamingup.

DREAM BRACKET—Yesterday Major League Baseball, in conjunction with *Out of the Park Baseball*, unveiled the MLB Dream Bracket 2: Dream Seasons, which begins next Thursday...the bracket is a 64-team best-of-seven simulation featuring two all-time teams from each of the 30 current franchises (post-World War II), as well as three Negro Leagues teams and the 1994 Montreal Expos...the Rays are represented by their 2008 and 2019 clubs, playing the 2004 Red Sox and 1998 Yankees, respectively, in the first round...fans can make their picks in the Dream Seasons Challenge and compete to win an MLB prize pack at mlb.com/dreambracket.

COMFORTS OF HOME—FOX Sports Sun continues to air Rays Classics on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 2019 Rewinds on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays...tonight at 7 p.m. and midnight, FOX Sports Sun will re-air "Game 162" from Sep 28, 2011, when the Rays clinched the AL Wild Card on **Evan Longoria's** 12th-inning, walk-off homer...on Monday at 9:30 a.m., 4 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., FOX Sports Sun will air the 18-inning, 5-4 win over the Orioles from Sep 20, 2013...on Wednesday at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight, they will air the 5-2 win from the 2013 tiebreaker game.

- + On Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at noon and midnight, FSS will air the wins from June 16 vs. LAA, June 21 at OAK and June 23 at OAK.
- + WDAE 95.3 FM and 620 AM continues its rewind to the 2008 post-season, re-airing Game 4 of the ALCS tonight at 7 p.m., Game 7 tomorrow at noon and Game 2 of the World Series on Sunday at noon.

CATCH SOME RAYS—This week's edition of the *This Week in Rays Baseball* podcast, hosted by Rays Radio's **Neil Solondz**, features center fielder **Kevin Kiermaier**, FOX Sports Sun broadcaster **Dewayne Staats** and outfield prospect **Grant Witherspoon**...in this week's alumni podcast, Neil catches up with **Dan Wheeler**, who ranks 5th in club history with 258 apps and still holds the club rookie record for strikeouts in a game (12).

THE LAST DANCE—ESPN's documentary of **Michael Jordan** and the Bulls dynasty concludes on Sunday with Episodes 9 and 10...Jordan played for the Double-A Birmingham Barons and the Arizona Fall League's Scottsdale

Scorpions in 1994...five current Rays players or coaches have only two degrees of separation to his baseball career, all through **Terry Francona**—who managed Jordan in Birmingham and Scottsdale...Rays Manager **Kevin Cash** played for Francona in Boston (2007-08, 2010) and was on the same coaching staff in Cleveland (2013-14), bench coach **Matt Quatraro** was on his staff in Cleveland (2014-17) and INF **Yandy Diaz** (2017-18), RH **Oliver Drake** (2018) and pitching coach **Kyle Snyder** (2006-08) all played for him.

- + Jordan was teammates in Scottsdale with **Nomar Garciaparra**, who went on to win the AL Rookie of the Year Award in 1997...Nomar's .534 SLG remains the highest in AL history by a rookie middle infielder (min. 300 PA), just ahead of **Brandon Lowe** (.514) last season.
- + Four former Rays were once teammates with Michael Jordan:

PAST RAYS & FORMER TEAMMATES OF MICHAEL JORDAN

PLAYER	MJ TEAMMATE	RAYS TENURE & STATS
RH Al Levine	1994 Birmingham Barons	1 Year (2003)—3-5, 2.90 ERA, 36 apps
RH Joe Borowski	1994 Scottsdale Scorpions	1 Year (2005)—1-5, 3.82 ERA, 32 apps
RH Dan Carlson	1994 Scottsdale Scorpions	1 Year (1998)—0-0, 7.64 ERA, 10 apps
C Gregg Zaun	1994 Scottsdale Scorpions	1 Year (2009)—.287 avg., 4 HR, 34 G

ON THE LINE—When baseball resumes, the Rays will carry with them a club-record 8-game winning streak in extra-inning games, ahead of July 30, 2007—May 13, 2008 (7)...this streak began last Aug 6 vs. TOR and included four extra-inning wins over a 6-game span from Sep 18-24...the Rays played a majors-most and club-record-tying 19 extra-inning games last season and went 11-8 in them, including 11-4 following an 0-4 start.

ODDS & ENDS—Since the 2020 season is on hold, the Baseball Reference team is using *Out of the Park Baseball* to simulate the season...through May 15, the Rays are 25-22, including a 9-2 mark in their last 11 games.

- + In a Community Hero sweepstakes, the Rays are providing 10 local healthcare winners with Rays gear...the nomination deadline is tonight at 11:59 p.m.; see atmlb.com/3dH4lCG for official rules.
- + On Twitter, @MLBStats noted **Kevin Kiermaier** tied LAD **Cody Bellinger** for the fastest avg. home-to-1st time last year at 3.97 seconds.

BEST WISHES—Belated birthday wishes to **Andy Freed**, who is currently in his 16th season with Rays Radio and is surely enjoying nightly ice cream sundaes in quarantine...manager, major league operations **Jeremy Sowers** celebrates his birthday on Sunday...players on the 40-man roster with upcoming birthdays: RH **Trevor Richards** (today), 1B/OF **Brian O'Grady** (Sunday), 1B **Ji-Man Choi** (Tuesday) and LH **José Alvarado** (Thursday).

THIS WEEK IN RAYS HISTORY

MAY 15, 2004	MAY 16, 2016	MAY 17, 2012	MAY 18, 1998	MAY 19, 2018	MAY 20, 2006	MAY 21, 2016
The Rays lost, 9-7, in Cleveland, in a game that began after a 1:14 rain delay...Rays pitchers issued 12 BB, tying the club record for a 9-inning game... Victor Zambrano allowed 7 BB in 1.1 IP.	Taylor Motter made his major league debut, becoming the first player since Baseball Reference data is available (1904) to play shortstop and in the outfield in his debut...the Rays blew out the Blue Jays, 13-2, at Rogers Centre.	Rich Thompson recorded his first career hit with a 4th-inning RBI single in a 5-3 loss to Boston... according to the Elias Sports Bureau, at 33 years, 24 days old he was the oldest AL position player to record his first career hit since 36-year-old MIN Minnie Mendoza in 1970.	The Rays beat the Orioles at Camden Yards, 6-3, and completed a 4-game sweep of the reigning division champions... Randy Winn recorded the first 3-hit game of his career and Albie Lopez got his first win as a Devil Ray.	Sergio Romo and the Rays debuted the concept of the opener in a 5-3 win at Angel Stadium... the scorecard was sent to the Baseball Hall of Fame... the game snapped the Rays streak of consecutive games started by a pitcher under the age of 30 at 603 in a row.	The Rays won on a walk-off homer over Florida for a second consecutive night...Russell Branyan hit a 2-run shot for a 4-3 win in the 9th inning... the previous night, Aubrey Huff hit a solo shot in the 10th for a 5-4 win.	Evan Longoria's 6th-inning homer was the 500th extra-base hit of his career, the first Ray to get there...was also his 200th homer as a third baseman, passing George Brett for 28th all-time...the Rays lost at Comerica Park, 5-4.

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