



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 29, 2020

Day 78 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	--						

ON THE CLOCK—Rays Senior Vice President, Baseball Operations & General Manager **Erik Neander** and Senior Director, Amateur Scouting **Rob Metzler** will be available via Zoom video on Wednesday, June 3 at 11 a.m. to discuss the upcoming First-Year Player Draft, which begins on Wednesday, June 10...the Rays will send a media advisory early next week with Zoom info...in 2019, the Rays selected shortstop **Greg Jones** from the University of North Carolina Wilmington with the 22nd pick.

- + Major League Baseball announced this morning that the 2020 June Draft will air live on MLB Network, ESPN and ESPN2...the five-round draft will be split into two days, with the first round and Competitive Balance Round A starting at 7 p.m. on June 10 (MLB Network, ESPN) and the second through fifth rounds beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 11 (MLBN, ESPN2)...the five rounds of the 2020 Draft will total 160 selections...in addition, the signing deadline for the 2020 Draft has been moved from July 10 to Aug 1.
- + This year's event will mark the first time that multiple networks will provide live primetime coverage of the MLB June Draft.
- + The Rays hold the 24th selection of the first round and will make the final pick of Day 1, at No. 37 overall (from St. Louis)...the Rays have four picks on Day 2 of the draft: Nos. 57, 96, 125 and 155.
- + This will be the first time the MLB Draft is held over the course of two days since 2008...it was a three-day event from 2009-19.

WEEK IN REVIEW—Tropicana Field re-opened to players and coaches this week for voluntary, limited workouts...these workouts began on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday staggered schedule, with no more than 2-4 at a time, throughout the day...each of these days included 12-14 players running, playing catch and doing light weight work, all on the field...the clubhouse, weight room, training room and batting cage were all closed.

- + Tropicana Field has safety protocols in place for these workouts, including for entry/exit, hand-washing and social distancing.
- + According to Stats LLC on Twitter, Monday was the first Memorial Day without a Major League Baseball game since 1880.

ALL IN CHALLENGE—The Rays are participating in Fanatics.com's All In Challenge, which benefits Feeding America, Meals on Wheels, World Central Kitchen and No Kid Hungry...details of the auction, which ends tonight at 9 p.m., are available at allinchallenge.in/TBRays...the Rays package, which has a current bid of \$12,000, includes watching batting practice before a to-be-determined game, a pregame visit with Manager **Kevin Cash**, throwing out the first pitch, a luxury suite for 12 people including a basic food package, a behind-the-scenes tour with visits to the

broadcast booths, one inning with SVP, Baseball Ops & General Manager **Erik Neander** and a personalized jersey for the winner...the All In Challenge provides food to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- + Lot 4 of Tropicana Field (1st Ave S and 17th St) continues to be used as a drive-thru mobile pantry for Feeding Tampa Bay's Pinellas clients, every Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon...for more details or updates to the schedule, visit feedingtampabay.org/mobile-pantries.

COMFORTS OF HOME—FOX Sports Sun will premiere a unique episode of "Rays All-Access" tonight at 6:30 p.m. ...reporter **Tricia Whitaker** interviewed several Rays players and coaches over the last two months to see how they were handling the COVID-19 pandemic and find out what they were doing during quarantine... "Rays All-Access: At Home" includes stories from Manager **Kevin Cash**, SS **Willy Adames**, INF/OF **Brandon Lowe**, OF **Austin Meadows** and LH **Blake Snell**, among others...it will re-air tonight at 10 p.m. and on several other occasions in the upcoming weeks.

- + FOX Sports Sun announced this morning the continuation of 2019 Rewinds through the first half of June...fans can tune in to FSS to watch Rays victories from last season in chronological order.
- + 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 May 6 vs. ARI, May 7 vs. ARI and May 11 vs. NYY.

CATCH SOME RAYS—This week's edition of the *This Week in Rays Baseball* podcast, hosted by Rays Radio's **Neil Solondz**, features righthander **Nick Anderson**, FOX Sports Sun analyst **Orestes Destrade** and catching prospect **Ronaldo Hernández**...in this week's alumni podcast, Neil catches up with **Evan Longoria**, who is the club's all-time leader in games (1,435), at-bats (5,450), homers (261), doubles (338), runs (780), RBI (892), walks (569), extra-base hits (618), total bases (2,630) and sac flies (76).

REMEMBERING ZIM—Thursday, June 4 will represent the 6-year mark of the death of Rays Senior Baseball Advisor **Don Zimmer**, who passed away at BayCare Alliant Hospital in Dunedin, Fla., at the age of 83...as the team's senior advisor for 11 years, he spent more time with the Rays than any other organization during his 66 seasons in professional baseball.

IT'S NEVER PRETTY—It is with great regret that the Rays Communications dept. announces the third annual media baseball game has officially been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic...the game was on the calendar to be played today, and the tradition may continue in 2021.

THIS WEEK IN RAYS HISTORY

MAY 29, 2017	MAY 30, 2018	MAY 31, 2000	JUNE 1, 2012	JUNE 2, 2000	JUNE 3, 2003	JUNE 4, 2000
The Rays won at Texas, 10-8, and Erasmo Ramirez became the first pitcher to record a save and go on to start his team's next game since fellow Nicaraguan MTL Dennis Martinez surrounding the 1993 All-Star break, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.	Nathan Eovaldi made his Rays debut, returning from right elbow arthroscopic surgery...it was his first game in the majors since Aug 10, 2016 at BOS (with NYY), going 657 days in between...he was removed after six no-hit innings, and the Rays won, 6-0, in Oakland.	The Rays beat the Orioles, 4-3, at home in a bizarre ending...the Rays were in the clubhouse in various stages of undress when the umpires ordered them back on the field, which drew a protest from Larry Rothschild...Roberto Hernández fanned Brady Anderson to end it.	Hideki Matsui hit a 2-run homer in the 1st inning of a 5-0 win over the Orioles at Tropicana Field...it was his second with the Rays and the final homer of his 10-year major league career.	Fred McGriff hit the 400th homer of his career, in the 6th inning at Shea Stadium off NYM Glendon Rusch...he became the 31st player to reach the 400-HR plateau...Todd Zeile's 3-run homer erased a Rays lead in a 5-3 loss.	Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa was ejected in the 1st inning at Wrigley Field when cork was discovered in his shattered bat after grounding out against Geremi González...the Rays lost the game, 3-2, when the Cubs scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the 9th.	Two days after career homer No. 400, Fred McGriff recorded the 2,000th hit of his career, off NYM Rich Rodriguez in the 8th inning...the Rays won, 15-5, as Felix Martinez and starting pitcher Esteban Yan hit their first career homers, back-to-back in the 2nd inning.

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