

2019 YEARBOOK





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FOR YOU.**

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2019



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WELCOME LETTER

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Fans:

The Lake Monsters are truly a Vermont treasure, and it isn't summer unless you catch a game at Burlington's historic Centennial Field.

For years our Vermont Lake Monsters have inspired young ballplayers and passionate fans of our nation's pastime, alike. In fact, more than 2 million enthusiasts have said "take me out to the ball game" to watch Vermont's team in action for nearly three decades. Watching a game is a great Vermont tradition, and we're so fortunate to have them in our Queen City.

The team has seen more than 100 of its players reach the Major Leagues. It's an organization that produces success, and in the Vermont way, it's thanks to their inspiring teamwork!

Catching a game is a great way to unwind, spend time with the family, and support your local team as they celebrate yet another season in the Green Mountain State. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Scott", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

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STADIUM INFORMATION

Rain Check Policy

All persons in possession of a ticket to a postponed game must exchange their ticket at the Vermont Lake Monsters ticket office for any future 2018 regular season game (based on availability). Admittance to a future game will not be allowed with a postponed game ticket.

Opportunities Credit Union Handicapped Seating

Handicapped seating is available on the third base side of the ballpark next to the third base grandstand. Each handicapped person will be provided with space for one companion.

Food and Beverages

Concession areas are located at the ballpark entrance and behind the first base bleachers. A barbeque area is located on the third-base side. Concession services are available at all games. NY-Penn League rules prohibit bringing food or beverages into the stadium.

Beer Sales

Beer may be purchased behind Section A, at the right field pavilion, and at the barbeque area on the third-base side. Beer sales conclude at the end of the sixth inning. Beer is on sale for those of legal age only. A maximum of two beers per person may be purchased at any one time. The Vermont Lake Monsters reserve the right to cease sales to anyone, and at any time.

Parking/Shuttles

Community Bank is proud to provide Courtesy Parking to Lake Monsters fans at the Gutterson Field House Parking Garage, as well as Trinity Campus. Community Bank will also be providing Courtesy Shuttle Bus service from the Gutterson Field House Parking Garage to Centennial Field. Limited stadium parking (\$3.00 per car) is available at Centennial Field.

Children

Children are the responsibility of their parents/guardians and must obey stadium rules. No running is permitted in the stands or in any areas of Centennial Field.

First Aid

First aid personnel are along the third base line in the handicapped seating area.

Merchandise/Lake Monsters Team Store

The Lake Monsters team store is located on the main concourse behind home plate. Merchandise may also be purchased online at vermontlakemonsters.com.

Lost & Found

Lost items may be claimed at the Guest Relations Booth.

Autographs

Vermont Lake Monsters players are very accessible and will sign autographs before and after games. Players are not allowed to sign autographs during the game.

Fan Behavior

Behavior or language that is offensive and affects others will not be tolerated. The Vermont Lake Monsters reserve the right to remove any individual or individuals who disrupt the ability of those around them from enjoying the game. Noise makers of any sort are not allowed. Anyone not abiding by this policy will be dealt with accordingly.

Clothing

For safety reasons, foot attire and shirts must be worn at all times.

Animals

Fans are not permitted to bring any animals into Centennial Field except for service pets.

Warning

Bats and batted or thrown balls have a tendency to leave the playing area before and during the game. Please pay attention to the action on the field at all times. The Vermont Lake Monsters, its players, officials, and agents are not responsible for any injury or damage resulting from such activity.

The throwing of any objects onto the field is prohibited. Fans are prohibited from the field of play before, during, and after the game. Anyone in violation of these policies will be removed from Centennial Field and is subject to prosecution.

All bags are subject to search.



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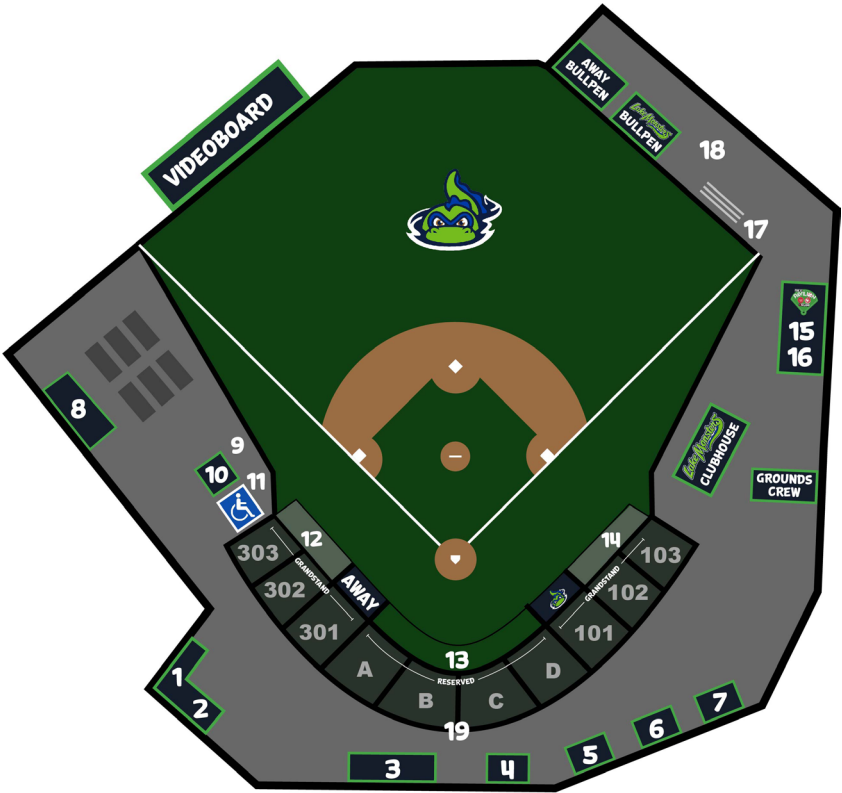
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CENTENNIAL FIELD SEAT MAP



SEATING MAP KEY

- | | |
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| 2 MAIN CONCESSION STAND | 11 OPPORTUNITES CREDIT UNION HANDICAP SEATING |
| 3 BEER, WINE, AND HARD CIDER | 12 3 RD BASE DUGOUT DECK |
| 4 RED BARN CONCESSION STAND | 13 VERMONT MORTGAGE COMPANY DIAMOND DECK |
| 5 GUEST RELATIONS BOOTH | 14 VERMONT MORTGAGE COMPANY 1 ST BASE DUGOUT DECK |
| 6 CONCESSION STAND - FRIED DOUGH, ETC | 15 VERMONT FRAMES PINE STREET PAVILION & BAR |
| 7 FIRST BASE CONCESSION STAND | 16 MVP HEALTH CARE PHONE CHARGING STATION |
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Host Family Story

by: Freda Tutt

"Good evening Expo fans. Ever wanted to see a behind-the-scenes look at Minor League baseball? If so, the Expos want to hear from you! The Expos are looking for families to house players for the remainder of the season." This was the voice of Rich Haskell over the PA at one of the late season games back in 1995. The next voice was a little 9-year-old boy, running all the way from the left field picnic area to our seats on the first base side... "Mommy! Mommy! We HAVE to get a player. Can we? Can we? Huh? Please?"

I was a single parent of my 9-year-old son, living in a two-bedroom apartment.

But hey, if this made my son happy, the least I could do was make the call. I called the office and they explained that the players were living in UVM housing, but had to leave so the University could get the housing ready for the incoming students. It sounded ok. I mean it was only for a few weeks. And I would be helping the team out. So, we signed on. Thus, began a 24-year relationship with the Expos/Lake Monsters.

man from Puerto Rico, Juan Antonio Rosado. My son's name is Jon Anthony. Coincidence? I don't think so. The boys became fast friends. Juan took Jon under his wing not only at home, but also at the field and on road trips. Somehow, he even convinced the Manager to let Jon ride the bus home from a road trip to Lowell, MA. We got to know the other host families and their kids. We all sat on the old concrete bleachers on first base with the other families. We did things together away from the ballpark too. Not only were we creating memories with our host son, but also with a whole new group of like-minded friends.



Freda and Michael Tutt with their 2018 players, Noah Vaughan (center) and Max Schuemann (right)

Our first player was a young

Continued on page 12

Story cont.

It was a very hard goodbye at the end of the season when we put Juan on the plane home. There were tears on both sides. We hoped that he would stay in touch, but wanted to set realistic expectations. After all, we had only housed him for 3 weeks. About a month later, we got a call from Juan. HE said he missed us, but more importantly, his mom wanted to talk to me. She didn't speak English and I didn't speak Spanish. But with Juan translating and just talking the universal language of moms, we had a lovely conversation. At the end, she thanked me for taking care of her son and sharing our home with him. To repay us, she wanted us to come and spend a week with her family, in their home in Puerto Rico. So... plane tickets were booked and we made the trip.

Juan's family treated us like royalty and took us all over the island. We met their friends; we saw many beautiful sights, attended the opening day of their little league season where Juan was a star. Everywhere we went, Juan introduced me as his Vermont mommy and Jon as his American little brother. It was overwhelming and we are eternally grateful.



Freda, Jon and Juan at Centennial



Jon and Juan on the beaches of Puerto Rico

Continued on page 14



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2018 Players with their host families

Fast forward to Spring Training 1996. The teams were breaking camp to come to Vermont in a few days. I got a call from Juan. "Mommy, I am coming back to Vermont this year. Can I come home?" Of course, we said yes. But then he asked, "Can I just move in when the plane gets there and not live in the University housing?" I was all for it and he got clearance from the team. He was the first player to stay with a host family for the entire season, paving the way for everyone else. In 1997, all of the players lived with a host family beginning when they arrived in Vermont. Thus, the host family program (in its current state) was born. I have housed over 65 players over the years. Some still in baseball, some that have moved on to have successful professional lives out of baseball.

There have been many changes in the program, but I am proud to say that I have been a part of it since the beginning. I have attended weddings, gotten birth announcements, visited our players at the higher levels, gone to Spring Training, received Birthday cards, phone calls on Christmas and Mother's Day. We are in touch with some players and not in touch player,

but we are always there for them if they want us to be. It has been a rewarding situation for us for many years, and I can't imagine not being a host family. Our house would be so empty in the summer. And the games are way more fun when you have a "son" on the field to cheer for. Every year I tell our players.... Your performance inside the white lines is important to the team, but I am more interested in your performance outside the white lines. Be a good person, and that will help you on your path to becoming a good player.

A few years ago, the Lake Monsters asked me, along with another host mom (Wendy Farrell) if we would coordinate the host family program. It's been a wonderful partnership with the Lake Monsters. If you would like to find out more about becoming a host family, please contact the Lake Monsters office and have them put you in touch with Wendy or me. We are happy to talk to you about it. Or, feel free to stop by and talk to us at the games. I can always be found in the front row of Section C.

Go Monsters!

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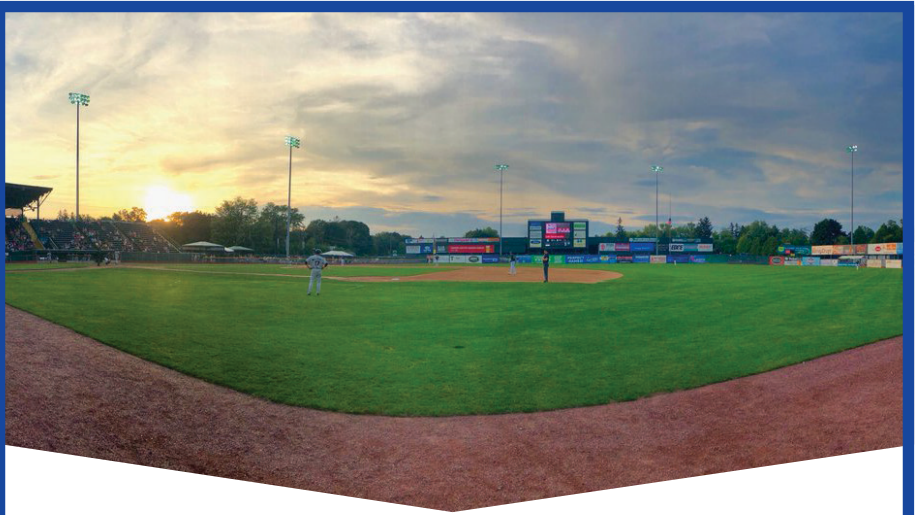


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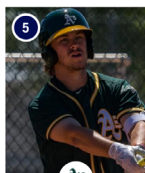
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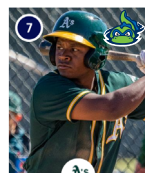
LAZARO ARMENTEROS
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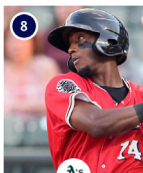
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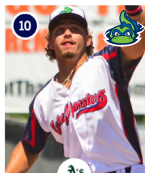
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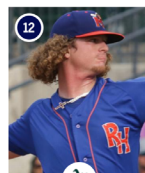
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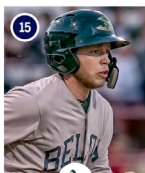
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KEVIN MERRELL
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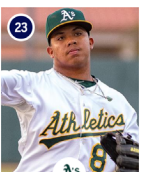
TYLER RAMIREZ
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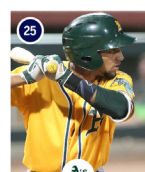
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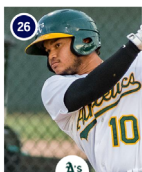
ALEXANDER CAMPOS
C/C



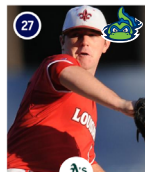
ALFONSO RIVAS
1B



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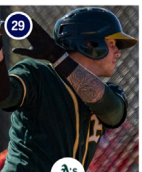
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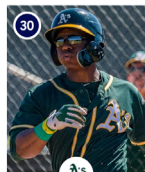
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ADVANCED A



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SHORT
SEASON A



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Dodgers affiliate, won both the regular-season and playoff championships. As of the 2018 season, the league includes 14 teams from eight different states. In addition to New York and Pennsylvania, from which the league draws its name, the NYPL also has clubs in Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, West Virginia, and Connecticut.





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NYPL Trivia!

by Dennis Bidwell

The 2019 season marks the 81st consecutive season of the New York-Penn League.

Founded in 1939, it was originally known as the Pennsylvania-Ontario-New York or PONY League and has been known as the New York-Penn League (NYPL) since 1957 (more on that later).

The NYPL arrived in Burlington in 1994, when the Jamestown (New York) Expos relocated to Centennial Field. The Vermont Expos became the Lake Monsters in November of 2005, in time for the 2006 season. The league has grown over the years to its current configuration of 14 teams located in 8 states.

Here are a few trivia questions to test your knowledge about the rich history of the NYPL...

1. What is the significance of the three divisions of the NYPL being named Stedler, McNamara, and Pinckney?

- A. They were former players in the league
- B. They were former owners of teams in the league
- C. They were former league presidents

2. What future member of the Baseball Hall of Fame pitched for the 1940 Bradford Bees?

- A. Early Wynn
- B. Warren Spahn
- C. Whitey Ford

3. What were the primary reasons for the league changing its name in 1957 from the Pennsylvania-Ontario-New York (PONY) League to the New York-Penn League?

- A. After the 1956 season, Hamilton, the only team in the PONY located in Ontario dropped out of the league.
- B. The name caused confusion with the youth baseball organization also known as PONY (Protect Our Nation's Youth).
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

4. What future major leaguer played for the Geneva Reds in 1960? Hint: he played in 3,562 games and had 4,256 hits during 24 seasons in the majors?

- A. Pete Rose
- B. Lou Brock
- C. Frank Robinson

5. What future Hall of Fame third baseman batted .263 in 57 games for the 1976 Elmira Pioneers?

- A. Mike Schmidt
- B. George Brett
- C. Wade Boggs

6. What future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback batted .318 in 42 games for the 1982 Oneonta Yankees?

- A. Steve Young
- B. John Elway
- C. Warren Moon

7. Who pitched for the 1959 Wellsville Braves and went on to win 318 games in the major leagues? Hint: His brother, Joe won 221 games during his 22 year major league career.

- A. Phil Niekro
- B. Don Sutton
- C. Jim Bunning

8. What New York-Penn Kinsella Award winner (Rookie of the Year) with Wellsville (1963) was seriously injured when he was hit by a pitch in 1967 while playing for the Boston Red Sox?

- A. George Scott
- B. Joe Foy
- C. Tony Conigliaro

9. What current major league manager played for the 1979 Oneonta Yankees?

- A. Bob Melvin
- B. Don Mattingly
- C. Rich Renteria

10. What future member of the Baseball Hall of Fame played for the 1971 WillamSPORT Red Sox?

- A. Jim Rice
- B. Carlton Fisk
- C. Eddie Murray

Find the answers on page 29!



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New York Penn League Trivia Answers

1. **(C)** The three divisions are named after former NYPL presidents, Robert Stedler (1939-47), Vince McNamara (1948-84), and Leo Pinckney (1984-92). They were all elected to the NYPL Hall of Fame in 2013.
2. **(B)** Warren Spahn played for the 1940 Bradford Bees. Spahn won 363 games during a 21 year major league career. He was elected to the NYPL Hall of Fame in 2012.
3. **(C)** All of the above. After the 1956 season, Hamilton, the only team in the PONY located in Ontario dropped out the league. Also, the name caused confusion with the youth baseball organization also known as PONY (Protect Our Nation's Youth). The league directors changed the name to the New York-Penn League at a meeting on February 10, 1957.
4. **(A)** Pete Rose played in 85 games for the Geneva Reds in 1960. He was elected to the NYPL Hall of Fame in 2016
5. **(C)** Wade Boggs. He had 3,010 hits during his 18 year major league career. He was elected to the NYPL Hall of Fame in 2012.
6. **(B)** John Elway. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004 after a 16 year career with the Denver Broncos. He was elected to the NYPL Hall of Fame in 2014.
7. **(A)** Phil Niekro. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997 following a 24 year major league career. He was elected to the NYPL Hall of Fame in 2012.
8. **(C)** Tony Conigliaro. He was the NYPL Player of the Year for the Wellsville Red Sox. While playing for the Boston Red, he suffered a fracture of the left cheekbone and a dislocated jaw with severe damage to his left retina during a game in 1967. He did not play during the 1968 season and was named 1969 Comeback Player of the Year.
9. **(B)** Current Miami Marlins manager Don Mattingly played in 53 games (.341 batting average) for the Oneonta Yankees in 1979. He was a six time all-star and nine time gold glove winner for the New York Yankees. He was elected to the NYPL Hall of Fame in 2015.
10. **(A)** Jim Rice played in 60 games for the 1971 Williamsport Red Sox. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame 2009 and the NYPL Hall of Fame in 2012.

About the Author

Dennis Bidwell is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) and the Internet Baseball Writers Association of America (IBWAA). He blogs about the New York-Penn League at [NY-Penn League News and History](#) and can be followed on Twitter [@NYPennNews](#).

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PLAYER PROFILES



#1 Lawrence Butler

Infielder

Atlanta, GA

DOB- 7/10/2000

Draft- R6 '18



#2 Yerdel Vargas

Infielder

Santo Domingo, DR

DOB- 2/17/2000

Draft- FA '16



#3 Logan Davidson

Infielder

Charlotte, NC

DOB- 12/26/1997

Draft- R1 '19



#4 Michael Woodworth

Outfielder

Alamenda, CA

DOB- 8/5/1997

Draft- R29 '19



#5 Nick Ward

Infielder

Kennett Square, PA

DOB- 10/19/1995

Draft- R34



#7 Danny Bautista

Outfielder

Lutz, FL

DOB- 9/20/2000

Draft- FA '17



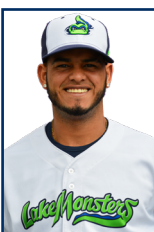
#9 Jorge Gordon

Pitcher

Panama City, Panama

DOB- 10/28/1997

Draft- FA '14



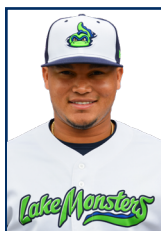
#10 Angello Infante

Pitcher

Maracaibo, Venezuela

DOB- 4/16/1999

Draft- FA '15



#12 Jordan Diaz

Infielder

Monteria, Columbia

DOB- 8/13/2000

Draft- FA '16



#13 Austin Briggs

Pitcher

Conroe, TX

DOB- 10/10/1995

Draft- R29 '18



PLAYER PROFILES CONT.



#14 Jose Mora

Pitcher

Santo Domingo Norte, DR

DOB- 10/1/1997

Draft- FA '15



#15 Carlos Sanchez

Pitcher

Panama City, Panama

DOB- 12/26/1997

Draft- FA '15



#16 Christopher Quintin

Infielder

Bani, DR

DOB- 6/7/1999

Draft- FA '15



#17 Seth Shuman

Pitcher

Valdosta, GA

DOB- 12/1/1997

Draft- R6 '19

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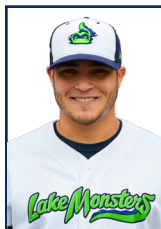
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#18 Jose Rivas

Catcher

Caburare, Venezuela

DOB- 8/5/1998

Draft- FA '14



#19 Clark Cota

Pitcher

Hampstead, NC

DOB- 10/6/1996

Draft- R10 '18



#20 Vince Coletti

Pitcher

Hollywood, FL

DOB- 11/3/1996

Draft- R17 '19



#21 Nick Osborne

Outfielder

Sevierville, TN

DOB- 2/20/1997

Draft- FA '18



#22 Richard Morban

Pitcher

Nigua, DR

DOB- 12/24/1997

Draft- FA '15



#23 Calvin Coker

Pitcher

Redwood city, CA

DOB- 03/06/1996

Draft- R15 '18



PLAYER PROFILES CONT.



#24 Kevin Richards
Outfielder

La Romana, DR
DOB- 1/8/2000
Draft- FA '16



#27 Tyler Baum
Pitcher

Ocoee, FL
DOB- 1/14/1998
Draft- R2 '19



#28 Jhenderson Hurtado
Pitcher

Santa Cruz de Mora, DR
DOB- 3/28/1996
Draft- FA '13



#30 Hogan Harris
Pitcher

Lafayette, LA
DOB-12/26/1996
Draft- R3 '18



#31 Jorge Martinez
Pitcher

Panama City, Panama
DOB- 1/5/1996
Draft- FA '14



#32 Jack Cushing
Pitcher

Flower Mound, TX
DOB- 12/3/1996
Draft- R22 '19



#33 Kyle McCann
Catcher

Suwanee, GA
DOB- 12/2/1997
Draft- R4 '19



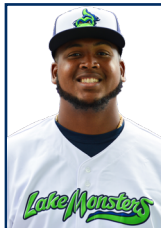
#34 Michael Murray
Pitcher

Lake Worth, Florida
DOB- 9/26/1993
Draft- R32 '15



#36 Colin Peluse
Pitcher

Middleton, DE
DOB- 6/11/1998
Draft- R9 '19



#37 Jeferson Mejia
Pitcher

Santo Domingo, DR
DOB- 8/2/1994
Draft- Trade '17



#39 Josh Reagan
Pitcher

Lexington, SC
DOB- 10/2/1994
Draft- R15 '17



#44 Yorlenis Noa
Pitcher

Santo Domingo, DR
DOB- 4/12/1996
Draft- FA '18



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FIELD STAFF



AARON NIECKULA

Manager

- Fifth season as manager of the Lake Monsters, Oakland A's affiliate
- First to skipper the Lake Monsters for five seasons
- Managed the 2014 Double-A Midland Rockhounds to the Texas League Championship (77-63 regular)



TOSHI NAGAHARA

Athletic Trainer

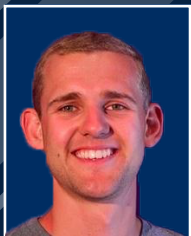
- 7th straight season as Vermont's athletic trainer after spending the previous 2 seasons with Arizona League Athletics
- Spent 2008-2009 as assistant athletic trainer and interpreter for the Cleveland Indians' Masahide Kobayashi



CARLOS CHAVEZ

Pitching Coach

- Returns as Vermont's Pitching Coach after spending one year away. Prior to leaving the team in 2017, Carlos coached for the Lake Monsters in 2015 & 2016.
- Spent 2017 season with the Beloit Snappers organization



KEVIN GUILD

Strength Coach

- Essex native Guild returns for his second year as Vermont strength and conditioning coach.



RICK MAGNANTE

Bench Coach

- Returns to Vermont for 1st season as bench coach after previously serving as Lake Monsters manager 2011-13
- Following stint as Lake Monsters skipper, was manager for Single-A Beloit in 2014 and Stockton 2015-18
- Along with bench coach responsibilities, also in his 1st season as A's Supervisor of Player Development



MACCU wishes the
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good luck this season!



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Michael Hartwell
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Patricia A. Howes
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Ray Walker
Reggie, Marcia, and Karen Robair
Rich and Ruth Torde
Robert McLellan
Rose Datillio
Scott and Ella Wells
Skip and Wendy Farrell
Stephen Totaro

Steve and Cheryl Bushey
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1 Which manager was the first to win World Series in both leagues?
a. Casey Stengel b. Tony La Russa
c. Joe McCarthy d. Sparky Anderson

2 Who is the only pitcher with at least 20 career postseason saves?
a. Mariano Rivera b. John Franco
c. Billy Wagner d. Kenley Jansen

3 Who was the first pitcher to appear in 1,000 career games?
a. Pete Alexander b. Johnny Vander Meer
c. Hoyt Wilhelm d. Cy Young

4 In 1974, which pitcher became the second hurler to reach 3,000 career strikeouts?
a. Tom Seaver b. Bob Gibson
c. Gaylord Perry d. Juan Marichal

5 Who is the only right-handed hitter in AL history with at least 300 home runs, 500 doubles, a .300 career batting average, .415 on-base percentage and .500 slugging percentage?
a. Ty Cobb b. Joe DiMaggio
c. Edgar Martinez d. Jim Rice

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(1: d. Sparky Anderson | 2: a. Mariano Rivera | 3: c. Hoyt Wilhelm | 4: b. Bob Gibson | 5: c. Edgar Martinez)

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Lake Monsters

In The Community

In the following pages you will find an in-depth look at the ways in which the Vermont Lake Monsters seek to enhance the well-being of our fans, members of the local community, and especially those in need. The Vermont Lake Monsters have a unique place within the greater Burlington community. As a professional sports team we are in a unique position to make positive impacts on our community in a variety of ways. Whether we host a food drive at the ballpark, or our lovable mascot, CHAMP, attends a non-profit fundraiser in January, we can go far and wide during the winter, spring, summer or fall to create positive, lasting impacts on our community.

Over the course of 2018, the Lake Monsters donated a total of \$83,440 to better the community. Here are some highlights of our year in giving:

- Donated \$7,371 worth of merchandise and memorabilia to non-profit organizations and fundraisers.
- CHAMP, our mascot, donated \$11,616 of his time to attending free CHAMP Sightings.
- Our school and youth fundraising programs raised \$14,707, 100% of which went directly to local schools and youth sports programs
- The Vermont Lake Monsters Front Office donated \$4,500 of their time to volunteering, speaking with local students, consulting on local businesses' board of directors, and more!

"Lake Monsters in the Community" breaks down into numerous sections to better elaborate and explain the various ways we contribute to our community. The sections are:

- Our Mascot: CHAMP
- CHAMP Sightings
- Rhino Cares Cookie Dough Row
- Youth Clinic
- Fundraising
- Game Day Charity Programs
- Player Appearances
- Donations
- Game Day Recognition
- CHAMP's Kids Club
- High School Baseball Championships

continued on pg 43



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In The Community cont.

Our Mascot: CHAMP!

As the identity of the team, our mascot CHAMP continues to be the forefront of our gameday entertainment, the biggest draw for kids, and an essential part of our community outreach. Easily the most recognizable mascot in the area, CHAMP brings a smile to anyone's face, no matter where he goes. Aside from his favorite 38 days a year (the Lake Monsters home games!), CHAMP is in high demand around Vermont to appear at events, community gatherings, private functions, and much more! CHAMP does a nightly meet & greet with fans after the 7th inning near the team store, where fans can give him one last high five or grab a photo and an autograph as they exit the ballpark. The response to this promotion was incredible, as fans have posted their photos with CHAMP all over their social media pages.



CHAMP Sightings

CHAMP's enormous impact in the local area is why the CHAMP Sightings initiative was created in 2014, to bring CHAMP out into the community to see his fans as much as he can. CHAMP Sightings are complimentary appearances, made available by New England Federal Credit Union, to organizations, charities, schools, little leagues, and any other organization who is looking to have CHAMP appear at their event. In 2018, CHAMP Sightings continued to be a staple all over Vermont as not for profit organizations and fundraisers saw CHAMP attend a multitude of events to help raise awareness for great causes as well as generate excitement. In total, CHAMP attended \$11,616 worth of appearances for free.



Rhino Cares Cookie Dough Row

Through the generous support of Rhino Foods, selected families, who may not have the means to normally attend a Lake Monsters game, are selected to participate in the "Cookie Dough Row." Each participating family receives up to six tickets to the game, six hot dogs, six soft drinks, and six ballcaps. The Vermont Lake Monsters work with many local agencies, including the Boys and Girls Club and King Street Youth Center to fill these spots.





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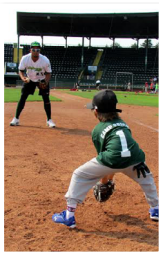
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Youth Clinic

The Lake Monsters and Mascoma Bank will host a two-day youth clinic at Centennial Field on July 27th & 28th. Put on by the Lake Monsters players and coaches, kids age 15 and under spend two days practicing and learning the fundamentals of hitting, fielding, throwing, and pitching.



Fundraising

Fundraising programs and outreach with local organizations is a fantastic way for us to both help out local organizations financially, as well as create new touch-points with fans and community members that otherwise may not have come to a game, or known about our team, etc. We have three different fundraising programs, each one allowing the participants to sell discounted tickets to Lake Monsters games. The programs are broken into different groups: the first benefiting local schools, the second is for youth sports organizations, and the third is for other qualifying local nonprofits and organizations which is our Five Guys' May Days program. In 2018 alone, the programs raised \$18,092, 100% of which went directly to different local schools, sports organizations, and numerous other local organizations.



Game Day Charity Programs

We run several different game day charity programs, which through generous corporate partners, donates thousands of dollars to some great charities and community efforts. "Here's To The Heroes" is a program that donates money to a scholarship fund for each Lake Monsters run scored at Centennial Field thanks in part to Farrell Distributing. For every run the Lake Monsters score at home, Farrell Distributing donates \$10 to the "Folds of Honor," a scholarship fund for families of fallen soldiers. This money helps provide complimentary tickets for every Lake Monsters home game during the season to Military members to attend games. The Hickok & Boardman Insurance Group's 'Home Runs for Charity' donates \$100 to United Way of Northwest Vermont for every Lake Monsters home run. Finally, the Aspent Health 'Strike Out the Stigma' campaign donates money for each strikeout recorded by a Lake Monsters pitcher, which benefits Spectrum Youth & Family Services.

Player Appearances

Every season, an integral part of the players' time in Vermont is the time they spend interacting with those in the community. The Lake Monsters player appearance program allows organizations to request player appearances throughout the summer to visit and interact with their group. Appearances have included going to local libraries and reading to children, visiting summer camps and programs to play and visit with the kids who attend, as well as visiting local schools and little leagues.



Donations

Every year, the Lake Monsters donate to several causes, both in and out of the game day experience. In 2018, \$7,371 in merchandise, signed memorabilia, and other fun experiences were donated to raffles and silent auctions. In addition, game day donation drives are held each year, with 2018 bringing in more than 400 lbs of clothes at our Goodwill clothing drive, more than 299 lbs of non-perishable food items for our Hannaford Helps Fight Hunger drive, more than 250 lbs of peanut butter for our Ford Focus on Child Hunger drive, and we stuffed over 235 backpacks during our COTS Back to School drive.



Game Day Recognition

Recognizing excellence in the community is extremely important to the Lake Monsters, and game days are a great time to shine a light on these positive accomplishments. We highlight students and youth athletes through several different programs. The 'Outstanding Student' program, backed by VHEIP, recognizes local students who are nominated by their school for trying their best and giving extra effort in the classroom. The program brings them to the ballpark for recognition on the field during the game, as well as having a personal baseball card created for them. Another program that focuses on in-school achievement is our 'Monster Athlete' program sponsored by Members Advantage Community Credit Union, which recognizes students who excel both in the classroom and on the field. Finally, the Lake Monsters have the 'Field of Dreams' program sponsored by Consolidated Communications, and the Opportunites Credit Union school fundraising program. These programs allow local little league and softball teams to be recognized onfield during pregame, as well as run out onto the field with the Lake Monsters players and stand on-field for the National Anthem. These are all great programs for recognizing the accomplishments of the local youth in our community.

"In The Community" cont.

CHAMP's Kids Club

One of the best parts about being a kid in Vermont is being in CHAMP's Kids Club. CHAMP's Kids Club, presented by VHEIP, is completely free to join, and gives each child who registers a free ticket to attend FIVE (5) games each year. With the club being free, it's obviously a great value, but we do our best to make these days a truly unforgettable experience for each child when they attend.



VT High School Baseball Championships

Each year, prior to the Lake Monsters season, Centennial Field is proud to host the Vermont High School Baseball Championships. It's a special opportunity for the high school players to play the final game of the season for the state title on the most beloved baseball field in the state. Utilization of the videoboard and production of player bio cards/photos adds more to the experience.

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Play Ball!

Why I Work at Cenntennial Field

by: Shawn McElwain

"Play Ball!" That phrase always brings to mind so many wonderful baseball memories. Growing up, I couldn't get enough of baseball. I played on every team I could make. We'd play pick-up games every chance we could get – playing long after it was too dark to see the ball any longer. As we got older, we would park our cars around the infield and turn the lights on to give us a few more minutes of playing time - secretly hoping our parents wouldn't come by the field and catch us!

Like most kids, I collected/traded baseball cards and rooted for my favorite teams/players on television every chance I got. But the most incredible experience was always going to a game with my family. Walking into the stadium, the sounds and smells would catch you as soon as you crossed the gate and transport you to another world – a place where you could forget about all your worries or problems back in the "real world" for a while. For the next couple of hours, the only questions that mattered were how many hot dogs to eat or do I want popcorn, Cracker Jacks or cotton candy with my drink?

Baseball has always been my greatest passion, and the opportunity to play at higher levels made that passion grow stronger. But when it came time to hang up my cleats for good, I felt a huge emptiness inside of me and I wasn't sure how or when that void would ever be

filled. That's when the opportunity to work for the Vermont Expos/Lake Monsters presented itself. At first, I wasn't sure if it was really something I wanted to do. I was already working full time, so the idea of putting in more hours at the ballpark afterwards seemed a bit much. But it turned out to be one of the best decisions I could have made.

For nearly 10 years, I have had the amazing privilege to walk into Centennial Field and spend countless hours with my "Summer Family" – both Lake Monsters Staff and our amazing fans. I love the chance to share stories with our "regulars" or find a way to make a first time visitor feel special at the park. The best feeling is watching the eyes of our smallest fans light up when you hand them a ball or when they see CHAMP-y for the first time. It makes the long days and late nights worth it every time.

For some, working for the Lake Monsters Organization might just be a summer job or a paycheck to help save up for college, but for others it is far more special. For me, it's a chance to keep my love of the game alive long after my playing days are over. It has given me the chance to meet and connect with so many amazing people that walk through our gates each season. But most importantly, it has given me a Summer Family that I can't wait to get back to every June!



Name that Alumni



1) I was born in Atlanta, Georgia on March 29, 1994.

2) I had committed to play baseball with Vanderbilt University, but I chose to sign with the Oakland A's rather than attend college.

3) I played for the Vermont Lake Monsters in 2012, playing 50 games and hitting .282/.352/.521 with nine home runs and 45 RBIs.

4) I won a Rawlings Gold Glove Award for superior individual fielding performance in 2018.

5) I recently had hand surgery after playing two games at the Opening Series in Tokyo, Japan.

**Find the answer on
page 59!**



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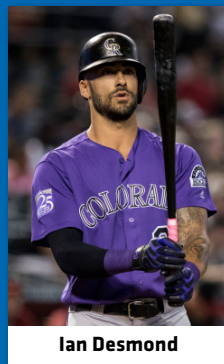
Orlando Cabrera



Jordan Zimmermann



Chad Pinder



Ian Desmond

1994

[Geoff Blum](#)
[Trace Coquillet](#)
[Jayson Durocher](#)
[Scott Forster](#)
[Mike Thurman](#)

1995

[Michael Barrett](#)
[Orlando Cabrera](#)
[Jose Fernandez](#)
[Jose Macias](#)
[Troy Mattes](#)
[Jeremy Powell](#)
[J.D. Smart](#)

1996

[Jamey Carroll](#)
[Yovanny Lara](#)
[Christian Parker](#)
[Simon Pond](#)
[Chris Stowers](#)
[Andy Tracy](#)
[Tim Young](#)

1997

[Matt Blank](#)
[Milton Bradley](#)
[Tomas De La Rosa](#)
[Henry Mateo](#)
[Talmadge Nunnari](#)
[Carl Sadler](#)
[Scott Strickland](#)

1998

[Nate Field](#)
[Jorge Julio](#)
[Jim Serrano](#)
[T.J. Tucker](#)

1999

[Matt Cepicky](#)
[Val Pascucci](#)
[Matt Watson](#)

2000

[Jason Bay](#)
[Anthony Ferrari](#)
[Wilson Valdez](#)
[Brandon Watson](#)

2001

[Chad Bentz](#)
[Shawn Hill](#)
[Josh Labandeira](#)
[Chris Schroder](#)

2002

[Jason Bergmann](#)
[Michael Hinckley](#)
[Michael O'Connor](#)
[Darrell Rasner](#)

2003

[Kory Casto](#)
[Jerry Owens](#)
[Josh Whitesell](#)

2004

[Brett Campbell](#)
[Ian Desmond](#)
[Jim Henderson](#)
[Luke Montz](#)

2005

[Marco Estrada](#)
[John Lannan](#)
[Craig Stammen](#)

2006

[Michael Martinez](#)
[Justin Maxwell](#)
[Daryl Thompson](#)

2007

[Ryan Buchter](#)
[Cole Kimball](#)
[Jordan Zimmermann](#)

2008

[Danny Espinosa](#)
[Pat McCoy](#)
[Tommy Milone](#)
[Tyler Moore](#)
[Derek Norris](#)
[Brad Peacock](#)
[Jake Smolinski](#)
[Steven Souza](#)





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2009

[Destin Hood](#)
[Juan Jaime](#)
[Jeff Kobernus](#)
[Sandy Leon](#)

2010

[Aaron Barrett](#)
[A.J. Cole](#)
[David Freitas](#)
[Matt Grace](#)
[Taylor Jordan](#)
[Ryan Mattheus](#)
[Robbie Ray](#)

2011

[Seth Frankoff](#)
[Beau Taylor](#)

2012

[Ryan Dull](#)
[Chris Bostick](#)
[Bruce Maxwell](#)
[Matt Olson](#)
[Daniel Robertson](#)
[Addison Russell](#)
[Michael Ynoa](#)

2013

[Jaycob Brugman](#)
[Dylan Covey](#)
[Ryon Healy](#)
[Ronald Herrera](#)
[Billy McKinney](#)
[Chad Pinder](#)
[Boog Powell](#)
[Jose Torres](#)
[Lou Trivino](#)
[Bobby Wahl](#)

2014

[Daniel Gossett](#)
[Yairo Munoz](#)
[Dillon Overton](#)
[Lou Trivino](#)

2015

[Skye Bolt](#)
[Richie Martin](#)



As of 5/1/18





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For additional courtesy parking provided by Community Bank, go straight through traffic light at the end of East Avenue into the Trinity Campus parking lot.

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For free parking and Community Bank courtesy shuttle service, stay on Spear Street before turning left into UVM's Gutterson Fieldhouse Parking Garage.

For limited stadium parking (\$3.00 per car), go to end of Spear Street and straight through light onto East Avenue. Continue to end of East Avenue and take right at light on Colchester Avenue to ballpark entrance just past Kampus Kitchen.

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Name that Alumni: Matt Olson

Lake Monsters Break Down Language Barrier

By Lauren Walsh

On a warm day in July, Marcos Brito adjusts his baseball cap, wiping sweat off his brow.

He wears the same Vermont Lake Monsters hat each of his teammates are wearing. He dons the same white and green cleats as they do. He does the same hitting drills, cycling in and out after meeting the criteria of batting practice.

They all share the same goal -- make it to the big leagues. For Brito, that runs parallel to another goal -- learning to speak English.

Despite the constant roster moves in minor league baseball, the Lake Monsters fielded about ten players born in Spanish-speaking countries in the 2018 season.

Brito is one of them. In 2016, at the age of 16, he left his home of San Pedro De Macoris in the Dominican

Republic and moved to the United States to play for the Arizona League Athletics, a rookie team affiliated with the Oakland A's.

Brito spent 2017 with Arizona before jumping up to Class A to play for the Vermont Lake Monsters in 2018.

The now 18-year-old takes English classes three times a week, on top of playing 76 games in three months.

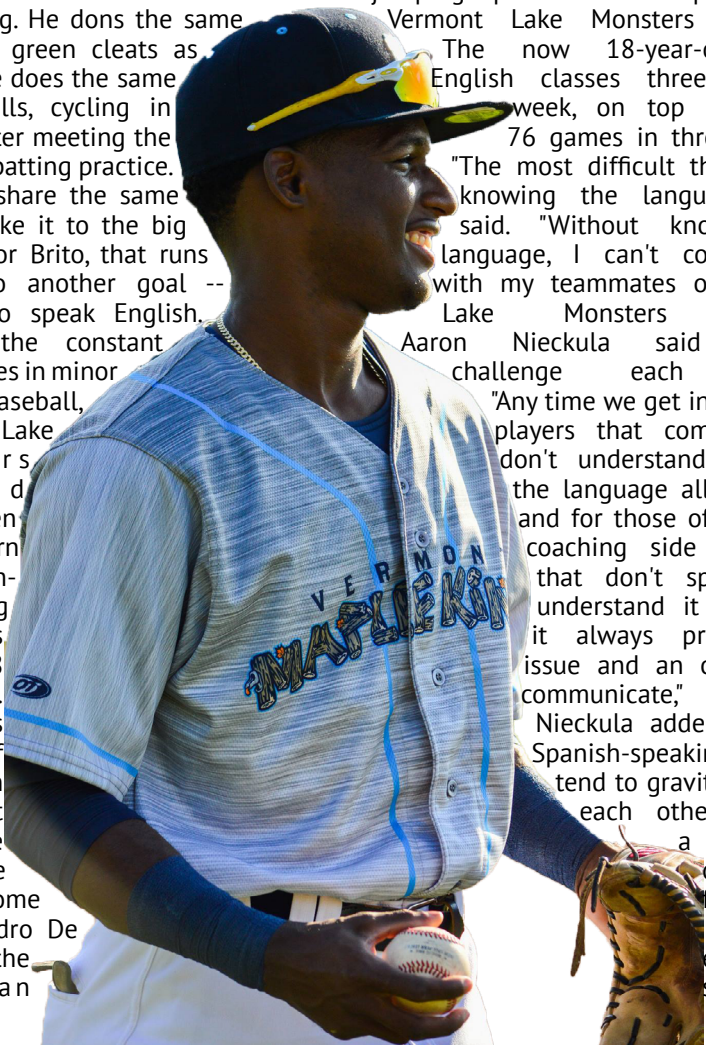
"The most difficult thing is not knowing the language," Brito said. "Without knowing the language, I can't communicate with my teammates or coaches."

Lake Monsters Manager Aaron Nieckula said it's a challenge each season.

"Any time we get international players that come in that don't understand or speak the language all that well, and for those of us on the coaching side of things that don't speak it or understand it very well, it always presents an issue and an obstacle to communicate," he said.

Nieckula added that the Spanish-speaking players tend to gravitate toward each other, creating

a sense of comfort for them. Brito echoed that sentiment,



detailing how he spends his free time playing video games, hanging out, and laughing with his Spanish-speaking teammates, some of whom he lives with in his host family's home.

"Yeah, we're like a family because we're always united, sharing things, talking, we're always together," Brito said.

He explained that he tries to learn one new word in English every day. On the day I spoke with him, the word of the day was "kitchen."

One of his teammates, Alfonso Rivas, who is from Mexico, is now bilingual. He understands Brito's position because he's gone through the same process.

"I went to summer school for seven years, straight, starting in fifth grade," Rivas said on his journey to learning English. "Then moving out in high school to another family, another English-speaking family, so that helped me cross the barrier of feeling comfortable with the language."

Rivas said he tries to avoid being a translator for the Spanish- and

English-speaking players. He said it's best to let them all learn and cross linguistic boundaries on their own.

Payton Squier, a Lake Monsters outfielder from Glendale, Arizona, enjoys the exchanging of words and slang that comes along with the language barrier, which he doesn't really see as a barrier at all.

"They like to learn new things too," Squier said. "Because, I mean, they're in English classes all the time, and it's the same for us. We try to learn Spanish and try to hop into their culture a little bit."

Brito is still learning English, but that hasn't stopped him from flourishing and growing while playing baseball in an English-speaking country. In fact, he said language is often not necessary while playing.

"Sometimes you just need to play. You don't have to talk. You can just play and play, if you don't want to talk you don't have to."

*This story was written by Lauren Walsh
from My Champlain Valley
August 30th, 2018*

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