

DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS

Play Ball!

JULY 12 - 17

ISSUE 8



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2019

DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS OFFICIAL GAME DAY MAGAZINE

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JULY 12 Friday, 7:05 p.m. vs. Hickory Crawdads

Nickelodeon Night featuring an appearance by Chase from Paw Patrol – The Shorebirds will celebrate one of the kids favorite characters, Chase from the hit Nickelodeon TV Show “Paw Patrol”. The Shorebirds will have activities and music from Paw Patrol throughout the evening. Chase will be in attendance during the game.

Paw Patrol Jerseys – The Shorebirds players will be wearing special Paw Patrol themed jerseys this Friday night. The jerseys will be auctioned off during the game and winning bidders will receive their jerseys at the end of the game. The jersey auction will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore.

Froggy 99.9 Big Beer Friday – 32 ounce Miller Lite and Coors Light draft beers are only \$6 presented by First Class HVAC.



JULY 13 Saturday, 7:05 p.m. vs. Hickory Crawdads

Q105 Fireworks – Come out and watch the Shorebirds light up the sky with their eleventh fireworks show of the season presented by Wor Wic CC.

Rotary Night – The Shorebirds in conjunction with the local Rotary clubs, will be hosting Rotary Night to continue the fight in eradicating polio. Join the fight and enjoy an evening of Shorebirds Baseball at the same time.



JULY 14 Sunday, 5:05 p.m. vs. Hickory Crawdads

Kids Club Game #3 – The Shorebirds kids club is back for the 2019 season. Members of the club receive 2 tickets to kids club games, a members only draw string bag, lanyard, player autograph session, and a whole lot more! The Kids Club is presented by Maryland EXCELS.

Strike Out Hunger Sunday – Bring two canned food items to the Shorebirds box office and receive an upper reserve ticket for \$3. All collected items will be donated to the local area food banks.

Kids Run the Bases – All Kids Club members get to run the bases after the game presented by Chili's Grill & Bar.



JULY 15 Monday, 7:05 p.m. vs. Lakewood BlueClaws

47 ABC Three Buck Monday – Enjoy \$3 upper reserved tickets, \$3 hot dogs and \$3 16 ounce fountain Pepsi products presented by Wicomico Heating & Air Conditioning.



JULY 16 Tuesday, 7:05 p.m. vs. Lakewood BlueClaws

Wag Your Tail Tuesdays #6 – Bring your dog to the park! The Shorebirds encourage fans to bring their dogs to Perdue Stadium to celebrate Wag Your Tail Tuesdays #6! If you bring a donation item for the Wicomico County Humane Society, the Shorebirds will allow your dog free entry into the stadium. Wag Your Tail Tuesday's is presented by Concord Pet Foods and Supplies.



JULY 17 Wednesday, 7:05 p.m. vs. Lakewood BlueClaws

Silver Sluggers Wednesday – Become part of the coolest club on the Eastern Shore. If you are 55 or over you can join the Shorebirds Silver Slugger program sponsored by Peninsula Home Care. Each Wednesday you will have a chance to win prizes throughout the night while playing baseball bingo.



Going above and beyond for you!

By: Sam Jellinek

Drew Rom Isn't Missing a Beat

It's not supposed to be this easy. Especially this early in the young career of Shorebirds pitcher Drew Rom.

Drafted by the Orioles in the fourth round in 2018 out of Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, Ky., Rom has absolutely dazzled in his first full season of professional baseball. The lefty has consistently kept his ERA under 2.00 while averaging more than a strikeout per inning and has been a huge part of the success the Shorebirds have had this season.

"I really couldn't have imagined the season going so well to this point," said Rom during a recent appearance on the team podcast One Flew Over the Shorebirds Nest. "I just wanted to go out and pitch and prove myself and show that I belong here."

Maybe it should've been obvious from the start that this year was going to be magical for Rom. In his first outing of the season at Lexington, he got to pitch at Whitaker Bank Ballpark, where his high school season ended in last year's state championship game.

"It was absolutely incredible, I loved having my family and all my friends there to support me. I had a bunch of kids from my baseball team come out too, it was just a lot of fun to see them all again."



Rom came out of the bullpen in his first outing of the year there, with the eyes of his friends and family on him, and tossed 3.2 innings, allowing just an unearned run while striking out eight batters.

That first outing was just a precursor of things to come however. After collecting his first professional win on April 27 against the Augusta GreenJackets, Rom went on an absolute tear. The Orioles' No. 27 prospect rattled off 25.1 consecutive scoreless innings, which lead to him being named the Orioles Minor League Pitcher of the Month for May. During that time span, the teenage lefty went 3-0 with a 0.35 ERA in 25.2 innings, walking eight and striking out 32.

"My mechanics were just clicking for me so well during that run," said Rom. "Everything felt in sync and allowed me to throw my pitches where I wanted. A lot of stuff we did in Spring Training has helped me mechanics wise. We tweaked my mechanics so I can get more direction and control towards the plate. It allows me to put pitches exactly where I want to throw them and lets me put my best stuff through the zone and

Team Physicians of the Shorebirds


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develop my pitches into major league weapons.”

Coming straight through the high school ranks, normally it is more of an adjustment for a pitcher to acclimate to professional hitting. Even though he's made it look easy, Rom acknowledges there was still a learning curve at the start.

“Locating pitches has been the biggest adjustment for me from high school ball to professional ball,” said Rom. “In high school, you could just throw fastballs basically 90 percent of the time and be fine. But here you really have to learn to mix your pitches and just be able to locate. Here, if you can't locate they are going to make you pay.”

Oddly enough for Rom, even if he had opted not to sign with the Orioles, he would've still been playing on a team that is one of the best in baseball. Rom had committed to the University of Michigan, a squad that tore it up in the College World Series, before signing for above slot value to turn pro.

“It's super weird, but I'm proud of those guys for grinding out this whole year,” said Rom. “I texted the head coach to congratulate them. But for me, getting drafted in the fourth round, knowing I would be a priority guy, was too much to pass up. With the amount of success I've had this year, it definitely makes me feel like I made the right decision to start sooner rather than later in my pro ball career.”

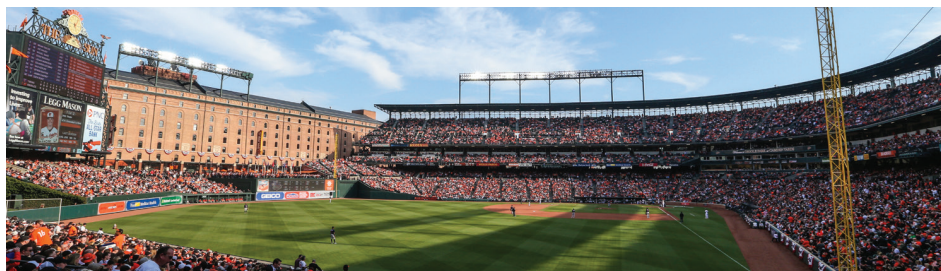


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MAY

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- 14 FRIDAY FIREWORKS & MUSIC**
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- 16 FATHER'S DAY FEDORA**
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- 28 ORIOLES FLOPPY HAT**
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JULY

- 12 FRIDAY FIREWORKS & MUSIC**
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- 13 BIRDLAND HAWAIIAN SHIRT**
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- 16 BROOKS ROBINSON BOBBLEHEAD**
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- 19 FRIDAY FIREWORKS & MUSIC**
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AUGUST

- 2 FRIDAY FIREWORKS & MUSIC**
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- FRIDAY FIREWORKS & MUSIC**
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- 10 DASHBOARD HULA BIRD**
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POSTGAME, ALL FANS



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Happy 85th Birthday Rolan!
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NASA Engineering Directorate
Wicomico Habitat for Humanity
Wilmington University

JULY 13th

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Classic Lawn Care
Coastal Hospice
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Fruitland Lions Club
Happy Birthday Linda & Laura!
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MD State Highway Administration
Oakmont Estates HOA
Pohanka
Salisbury Rotary Club
Seagrass Plantation
Snow Hill Rotary
Tate Engineering

JULY 14th

Adam Wright & Friends
Delmar Field Hockey
Happy 6th Birthday Bryson!
SealTech of Delmarva LLC
Street Family
ZOAR United Methodist Church

JULY 15th

Eastern Shore BayBirds 8U
Happy 7th Birthday Jacob!
Happy 13th Birthday Thomas Foxwell III!
Lord Baltimore Lions Club

JULY 16th

Shorebirds Baseball Campers
Cripple Creek Tennis Club
Mid Atlantic Shockers
Rexel

JULY 17th

The Griffin Higgins Team





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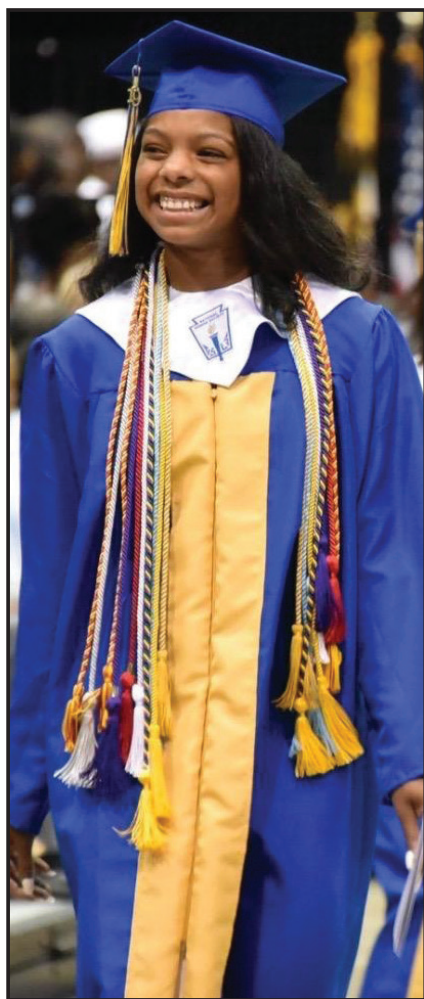


Student Scholarships

From around the Shore, Community Foundation donors fuel the dreams of higher education. In FY 2018 more than \$570,000 in scholarships were awarded to students. CFES distributes over 350 scholarships each year which are created by individuals, families, and organizations who wish to memorialize a loved one, encourage a certain field of study, or want to extend a helping hand for college-bound students.

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To learn more about investing in the leaders of tomorrow, contact The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore at CFES.org or 410-742-9911.



The Wicomico High School Class of 1963 scholarship held at CFES was awarded to Jessica Greene who will be attending Howard University and majoring in Biology.



The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore. We are a 501c3 nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors, and have provided more than \$80 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984. We collaborate with individuals, families, and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthen local nonprofits through grants and resources. We are devoted to improving our regional community and believe in the power of philanthropy.

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Deanna Cully & James Thomas

Deanna Culley and James Thomas are this week's season ticket holders in the spotlight. Nicknamed Poppa Jay and Momma Dee, this is their 2nd season as full season ticket holders, but they've been attending games regularly since 2011. "In 2011 we were big fans of a lot of future big leaguers like Manny Machado and Jonathan Schoop, and I think this year's team reminds me of that year in terms of lots of future Orioles," said Deanna. "Eventually we'd like to host players like some of our friends here at the stadium do!"



"Some of our favorite players this year are Danny Fajardo, Adam Hall, Cadyn Grenier, and Ben Breazeale. They've progressed so much already this season, and can't wait to keep watching everyone play into the playoffs! Ben has been improving greatly at catcher all season, and I know he'll do a great job with our pitchers now that Danny has been moved up to Frederick." When asked about some of their favorite moments to date, a few blasts came to mind. "A few weeks ago, Danny hit his first home run of the year, and it was a grand slam here at home, we were so thrilled for him! Also, the grand slam from JC Encarnacion in April was amazing, coming back from a 5 run deficit in the 9th to win the game!"

Sitting on the Shorebirds dugout, Deanna and James are always in tune with the team, especially watching first year manager Kyle Moore. "When it comes to first year managers, you never know what to expect going into each season, but it's clear that the team responds so well to Kyle's leadership," said Deanna. "I especially love it how he argues poor umpire calls, and always goes to bat for the team."

When attending Shorebirds games, Deanna and James frequently visit the Birds Eye Café on the 3rd floor. "We usually grab a Sherman Burger, and the Salads are always great! Sometimes we'll splurge for the crab pretzel braid, and anytime it's hot we always grab a Sherman Gelati with chocolate ice cream!" Throughout the season, Deanna and James also enjoy attending several of the season ticket holder events. "Any of the picnics are always great times spent with fellow season ticket holders, but James especially enjoys the batting practice day when he's able to step up to home plate and hit some on the field!"

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PLAYERS & COACHES

 #30 Matt De La Rosa	 #17 Reed Hayes	 #25 Edison Lantigua	 #3 Cadyn Grenier
 #21 Gray Fenter	 #37 Jhon Peluffo	 #11 Wagner Ramirez	 #10 Adam Hall
 #16 Ryan Wilson	 #39 Ofelky Peralta	 #29 Tyler Joyner	 #20 Nick Horvath
 #35 Hector Guance	 #36 Grayson Rodriguez	 #38 Juan Echevarria	 #14 Cody Roberts
 #32 Matt Hammonds	 #19 Drew Rom	 #34 Seamus Curran	 #31 Robert Neustrom
 #7 Alexis Torres	 #26 Nick Vespi	 #1 J.C. Encarnacion	 #27 Doran Turchin
 #12 Ben Breazeale	 #4 Ryne Ogren	 #47 Felix Bautista	 #2 Kyle Moore
 #15 Justin Ramsey	 #6 Dan Radison	 #23 Pat Leyland	 # Adrian Gonzalez
		 # Tim Chiarolanza	



SHOREBIRDS ROSTER

#	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
47	Felix Bautista	R/R	6-5	190	6/20/95 (24)	Santo Domingo, D.R.	FA (8/4/2016)
30	Matt De La Rosa	L/R	6-2	210	11/15/93 (25)	Austin, TX	28th Rd. (2016)
38	Juan Echevarria (IL)	R/R	6-3	195	6/25/97 (22)	Santurce, P.R.	FA (7/2/2015)
21	Gray Fenter	R/R	6-0	200	1/25/96 (23)	West Memphis, AR	7th Rd. (2015)
35	Hector Guance	R/R	6-6	200	7/12/95 (23)	San Cristobal, D.R.	FA (6/9/2015)
	Cody Hacker (IL)	R/L	5-11	180	6/18/00 (19)	Wentzville, MO	15th Rd. (2018)
32	Matt Hammonds	L/L	6-4	205	5/23/95 (23)	Anaheim Hills, CA	29th Rd. (2017)
17	Reed Hayes	R/R	6-3	185	3/17/95 (24)	Bristol, TN	13th Rd. (2017)
29	Tyler Joyner	R/R	6-4	225	5/10/96 (22)	East Brewton, AL	30th Rd. (2018)
	Jimmy Murphy (IL)	R/R	5-11	195	10/14/94 (24)	South Orange, NJ	8th Rd. (2017)
37	Jhon Peluffo	R/R	6-3	140	6/16/97 (21)	Catagena, COL	FA (5/30/2014)
39	Ofelky Peralta	R/R	6-5	195	4/20/97 (22)	Bonao, D.R.	FA (9/7/2013)
36	Grayson Rodriguez	R/R	6-5	220	11/16/99 (19)	Nacogdoches, TX	1st Rd. (2018)
19	Drew Rom	L/L	6-2	170	12/15/99 (19)	Fort Thomas, KY	4th Rd. (2018)
26	Nick Vespi	L/L	6-3	215	10/10/95 (23)	Miami, FL	18th Rd. (2015)
16	Ryan Wilson	L/L	6-1	190	11/6/96 (22)	Carlsbad, CA	33rd Rd. (2017)

#	CATHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
12	Ben Breazeale	L/R	6-0	208	10/21/94 (24)	Louisville, TN	7th Rd. (2017)
11	Wagner Ramirez (IL)	R/R	5-11	170	12/11/94 (24)	San Juan de la Maguana, D.R.	FA (6/18/2015)
14	Cody Roberts	R/R	6-1	195	6/16/96 (22)	Johns Creek, GA	11th Rd. (2018)

#	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
34	Seamus Curran	L/R	6-6	245	9/6/97 (21)	Springfield, MA	8th Rd. (2015)
1	J.C. Encarnacion	R/R	6-3	195	1/17/98 (21)	San Juan de la Maguana, D.R.	Trade (7/31/18)
3	Cadyn Grenier	R/R	5-11	188	10/31/96 (22)	Henderson, NV	1st Rd. (2018)
10	Adam Hall	R/R	6-0	170	5/22/99 (19)	London, ONT	2nd Rd. (2017)
	John Ham (IL)	R/R	5-10	190	8/27/96 (22)	Deerfield Beach, FL	31st Rd. (2018)
4	Ryne Ogren	R/R	6-1	180	4/11/97 (22)	Conestoga, PA	Trade (4/24/19)
7	Alexis Torres	R/R	6-0	183	12/12/97 (21)	Caguas, P.R.	5th Rd. (2016)

#	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
20	Nick Horvath	R/L	5-11	200	7/13/96 (22)	Jupiter, FL	25th Rd. (2018)
25	Edison Lantigua	L/L	6-0	175	1/9/97 (22)	Puerto Plata, D.R.	FA (5/1/2019)
31	Robert Neustrom	L/L	6-2	208	11/12/96 (22)	Sioux City, IA	5th Rd. (2018)
27	Doran Turchin	R/R	6-2	195	7/7/97 (21)	Oak Creek, WI	14th Rd. (2018)

#2 Kyle Moore
Manager

#23 Pat Leyland
Development Coach

#15 Justin Ramsey
Pitching Coach

Adrian Gonzalez
Athletic Trainer

#6 Dan Radison
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Fransz Captured Imagination During Last Playoff Run

By winning the Northern Division title in the first half, the Delmarva Shorebirds clinched their first postseason berth in 14 years. The drought was by far the longest active playoff absence in the South Atlantic League; in the years between, every other franchise had made it at least twice.

The last time Perdue Stadium hosted pro baseball past Labor Day was 2005. Much like the 2019 squad, that Shorebird team saw all its pieces working together and firing on all cylinders. Unlike this year's team, with eight All-Stars and the chance for everybody to play hero on any given night, one star shone brighter than the rest for manager Gary Kendall and the 2005 Shorebirds. His name: Jason Fransz.



Fransz, 24 when he broke camp with Delmarva in 2005, was to that point an unheralded journeyman. Drafted three times, the SoCal native eventually caught on with the Cubs as an eighth-round pick out of the University of Oklahoma in 2002. After reaching Class-A Lansing the next year, Chicago flipped him to Texas for major league outfielder Doug Glanville. Fransz put up pedestrian numbers in scant playing time with Low-A Clinton, and the Rangers released him in July 2004. Within a week the Orioles took out a flyer on Fransz, and he finished out the season with the Shorebirds, batting an impressive .317 over 28 games before re-signing a minor league deal with Baltimore that November. Then came 2005. After a pedestrian first

Continued on page 23

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An advertisement for 'Your Docs In' featuring a baseball player in a blue and white uniform sliding into a base, kicking up a cloud of dust. The player is wearing red socks and a red and white striped knee brace. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'Your Docs In' which includes a stethoscope graphic. The text 'Your Docs In' is in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Your' in blue and 'Docs In' in red. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular seal that reads 'Coastal Style Magazine BEST OF WINNER 2018'. The background is a solid light blue color.



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HICKORY ROSTER

#	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BIRTHDATE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
16	Anderson, Grant	R/R	6'0"	180	6/21/97	Port Arthur, TX	Trade (2019)
15	Brennan, Tim	L/R	6'4"	200	12/18/96	Philadelphia, PA	7th rd (2018)
33	Bice, Dylan	L/R	6'4"	220	8/17/97	Ringgold, GA	23rd rd (2016)
17	Bueno, Hever	R/R	6'2"	179	11/23/94	Mesa, AZ	9th rd (2016)
	Casanova, Jean	R/R	6'3"	181	3/4/97	Waukegan, IL	35th rd (2016)
	Chandler, Sean	R/R	6'5"	200	1/24/97	Bellevue, NE	6th rd (2018)
10	Crouse, Hans	L/R	6'4"	180	9/15/98	Dana Point, CA	2nd rd (2017)
38	Gonzalez, Kelvin	R/R	6'0"	170	12/24/97	Mao, DR	Trade (2018)
31	Henriquez, Ronny	R/R	5'10"	155	6/20/00	Banao, DR	NDFA (2017)
18	Jacobsen, Lucas	L/L	6'5"	190	7/1/95	Santa Cruz, CA	27th rd (2016)
40	Linarez, Jesus	R/R	6'4"	216	1/10/97	Banao, DR	NDFA (2014)
21	Mendoza, Abdiel	R/R	5'10"	160	9/19/98	Chitre, Panama	Trade (2018)
30	Rodriguez, Yerry	R/R	6'2"	198	10/15/97	Santiago, DR	NDFA (2015)
25	Snyder, Nick	R/R	6'4"	190	10/10/95	Palm City, FL	19th rd (2017)
14	Thompson, Tyree	R/R	6'4"	165	6/12/97	New Orleans, LA	26th rd (2016)
23	Tiedemann, Tai	R/R	6'6"	195	5/31/96	Lakewood, CA	8th rd (2016)
24	Winn, Cole	R/R	6'2"	190	11/25/99	Longmont, CO	1st rd (2018)

#	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
32	Novoa, Melvin	R/R	5'11"	215	6/17/96	Nandaime, Nicaragua	NDFA (2013)
22	Quiroz, Isaias	R/R	5'10"	234	10/22/96	Bergenfield, NJ	20th rd (2014)
19	Whatley, Matt	R/R	5'10"	200	1/7/96	Claremore, OK	3rd rd (2017)

#	INFIELDBERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
13	Apostel, Sherten	R/R	6'4"	200	3/11/99	Willemstad, Curacao	Trade (2018)
	Biggers, Jax	L/R	5'11"	175	4/7/97	Missouri City, TX	8th rd (2018)
11	Chavez, Frainyer	S/R	5'10"	170	5/24/99	Valencia, Venezuela	22nd rd (2018)
12	Enright, Kole	S/R	6'1"	175	1/21/98	West Orange, FL	3rd rd (2016)
3	Ornelas, Jonathan	R/R	6'1"	178	5/26/00	Glendale, AZ	3rd rd (2018)
37	Reed, Tyreque	R/R	6'1"	250	6/6/97	Houlka, MS	8th rd (2017)
	Seise, Chris	R/R	6'2"	175	1/6/99	Schenectady, NY	1st rd (2017)

#	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
9	Almonte, Jose	R/R	6'3"	205	9/9/96	Santo Domingo Centro, DR	NDFA (2013)
5	Aparicio, Miguel	L/L	6'0"	188	3/17/99	San Carlos, Venezuela	NDFA (2015)
27	Gardner, Tanner	L/R	6'0"	210	9/28/95	Carrollton, TX	9th rd (2017)
4	Gonzalez, Pedro	R/R	6'5"	190	10/27/97	Santo Domingo, DR	Trade (2017)
6	Smith, Chad	L/L	6'2"	200	9/30/97	Snellville, GA	5th rd (2015)

#39 Matt Hagen
Manager

#8 Jared Goedert
Hitting Coach

#20 Jose Jaimes
Pitching Coach

#1 Joshua Johnson
Infield Coach

Bronson Santillan
Athletic Trainer

Xavier Saldana
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#	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BIRTHDATE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
54	Brown, Ben	R/R	6-6	210	9/9/1999	East Setauket, NY	33rd rd (2017)
46	Cabrera, Ismael	R/R	6-1	185	6/19/1994	Peravia, DR	AFA (2014)
16	Carrasco, Luis	R/R	6-3	181	9/11/1994	Puerto Ordaz, VZ	AFA (2013)
18	Glogoski, Kyle	R/R	6-1	194	1/6/1999	Auckland, New Zealand	AFA (2018)
15	Gonell, Rafi	R/R	6-2	190	2/26/1997	Montecristi, DR	AFA (2018)
34	Gowdy, Kevin	R/R	6-4	170	11/16/1997	Santa Barbara, CA	2nd rd (2016)
20	Lindow, Ethan	R/L	6-4	187	10/15/1998	Locust Grove, GA	5th rd (2017)
11	McKay, Tyler	R/R	6-6	180	8/18/1997	Blue Springs, MO	16th rd (2018)
30	Mezquita, Jhordany	L/L	6-1	211	1/30/1998	Santiago, DR	8th rd (2017)
57	Morales, Francisco	R/R	6-4	225	10/27/1999	San Juan de los Morros, VZ	AFA (2016)
36	Potter, Mark	R/R	6-6	284	11/12/1997	Rockledge, FL	19th rd (2018)
44	Ramirez, Luis	R/R	5-11	175	9/14/1997	Porlomar, VZ	AFA (2015)
14	Silva, Manuel	L/L	6-2	157	12/18/1998	Sabana Grande de Palenque, DR	AFA (2015)
25	Troya, Gilmael	R/R	6-0	196	4/4/1997	Valencia, VZ	(AAA, 2018)

#	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
31	Gutierrez, Abraham	R/R	6-2	214	10/31/1999	Charallave, VZ	MLFA (2017)
13	Marchan, Rafael (DL)	S/R	5-9	196	2/25/1999	Caracas, VZ	AFA (2015)

#	INFIELDBERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
3	Garcia, Luis	S/R	5-11	170	10/1/2000	San Pedro de Marcoris, DR	AFA (2017)
4	Guzman, Jonathan	R/R	6-0	171	8/17/1999	Esperanza, DR	AFA (2015)
28	Holmes, Jake	R/R	6-4	198	7/2/1998	Tierra Verde, FL	11th rd (2017)
6	Miller, Luke	R/R	6-2	192	7/17/1996	Muncie, IN	22nd rd (2018)
7	Stobbe, Cole	R/R	6-2	194	8/30/1997	Newberry, FL	3rd rd (2016)
9	Stovall, Hunter	R/R	5-8	170	9/5/1996	Birmingham, AL	Trade (4/2019)

#	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN/AGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
27	De La Cruz, Carlos	R/R	6-8	210	10/6/1999	Yonkers, NY	AFA (2017)
33	Matos, Malvin	R/R	6-3	182	8/19/1996	Caja Seca, VZ	AFA (2015)
44	Pelletier, Ben	R/R	6-2	200	8/22/1998	Varennnes, Quebec	34th rd (2015)
5	Trejo, Yerwin	R/R	6-3	170	1/3/1997	Caja Seca, VZ	AFA (2016)

#22 Mike Micucci

Manager

Adam Godwin

Coach

#24 Christian Marrero

Hitting Coach

Kris Terrian

Athletic Trainer

#32 Matt Hockenberry

Pitching Coach

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half, the Shorebirds caught fire after the All-Star Break, roaring to a 42-27 record and the Northern Division crown. In the middle of it all was Franz, who despite playing just 103 games turned in perhaps the greatest offensive season in franchise history. Franz slashed .308/.372/.563 with 33 doubles, 22 home runs, 111 RBIs, 70 runs scored, and a .935 OPS.

In the process, Franz rewrote the Shorebird single-season record book. His 111 RBIs shattered Ryan Minor's previous team-high of 97 in 1997; nobody else has even approached triple-digit RBIs. His .563 slugging percentage eclipsed that of Minor's 1997 teammate Calvin Pickering and still stands as Delmarva's best. Through the end of last season, Franz still ranks top-five in franchise history in batting average (.308), home runs (22), total bases (223), and extra-base hits (56).

Franz led the 2005 Shorebirds to their sixth postseason berth in their first 10 seasons, but Delmarva would go no further than the Northern Division Championship Series, falling to in-state rivals Hagerstown two games to one. As the team scattered, Franz played the next year in High-A Frederick; he led the Keys with 24 home runs and 84 RBIs, batting .243 on the season. His baseball story came to an end in Frederick, though; Franz retired after the 2006 season and faded from public life.

What stands out about those 2005 Shorebirds is how ordinary the group turned out to be. The team only boasted two future major leaguers, pitchers Kevin Hart and Radhames Liz. And yet under the guidance of manager Gary Kendall, who eventually led the Bowie Baysox to an Eastern League crown 10 years later and now manages in Triple-A Norfolk, that group etched its name into Delmarva lore.

Time will tell how many of the 2019 Shorebirds make it to The Show. This year's bunch might not be keyed in on becoming the next Jason Franz, who never made it past High-A. But to the fans who pack Perdue Stadium every night, it's enough to see them blossoming right in front of them, eyes locked on a long-awaited playoff return.



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HITTING COACH DAN RADISON, PART I

Before a recent road game, Shorebirds radio voice Will DeBoer caught up with hitting coach Dan Radison. Radison took over the position in June from Tom Eller, who transitioned to the same job in Aberdeen. He has coached in professional baseball for more than 30 years, winning two minor league titles managing Johnson City (Appalachian League, 1986) and Albany-Colonie (Eastern League, 1991). Radison also served on big league staffs with the Padres, Cubs, Nationals, and Astros.

WD: You played in the Cardinals system in the 1970s; what was that experience like compared to the modern minor league experience?

DR: Well we didn't have any batting cages like we just worked in; there was no such thing. Our manager in Double-A and Triple-A didn't throw batting practice. We didn't even have batting practice. So it was basically play the game and try to figure out how to get better during the game. The instruction, the amount of skill development that we do now, is tenfold over what it used to be.

WD: What's something you know now you wish you knew back then, as a player or as a young coach?

DR: To me, and I'll tell these guys about it, I didn't make it to the big leagues because I wasn't mentally tough enough. That's the only reason they won't make it, because everything's here for them. They've got all the instruction, they've got all the information they need. We as coaches, we're not trying to figure this out, we know exactly what they need to do in order to get there. And it's just a matter of the mental toughness that they can bring on a day-to-day basis to get it done.

WD: You've coached at pretty much every level over your 30 years. What separates a minor league championship team from the pack?

DR: Well I'm probably different than a lot of people: I was always my own hitting coach when I did manage, and I've always felt like if we hit better, we're going to win. Everybody's pretty good at the bunt plays, everybody's pretty good at double cut-offs, everybody's got defensive-minded players. This team here, we've got incredible defenders; that's why they were winning, because we're pitching so well and we catch everything. But if we can continue to improve swinging the bat, we've got a chance to be a really special team here.

WD: The foundation's in place, it's just a matter of building on offense.

DR: That's what I focus on: making sure they have quality at-bats, that pitch selection is good. Right now this is a young club, and we turn a lot of what should be walks into strikeouts. So we've got to clean that up. If you get 14 or 15 guys on base, and they get eight, you're going to win the game.

Part II of this interview with Dan Radison will be published in PlayBall! Issue 9

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By: Sam Jellinek

Birds Just Wanna Have Fun: A Bullpen Story



It's a close game with the Shorebirds leading down the stretch. Naturally, that means it's time for the bullpen to kick into high gear. With some teams, the bullpen might panic and be unable to rise to the occasion. But for Delmarva, the boys at the back end are already having so much fun that the pressure is nothing to them.

A key part of the Shorebirds' success this season has been phenomenal relief

pitching. The group leads the league in saves by a wide margin and holds a group ERA of just over 3.00. Lefty curveball specialist Zach Matson was selected as an All-Star, but a few of his bullpen mates arguably were just as deserving of a bid. As Shorebirds pitching coach Justin Ramsey explains, though, these guys are focused on something bigger than accolades.

"They show up ready to work every day," said Ramsey. "That's been the mindset from day one. There's always a plan, and it's a credit to those guys for constantly wanting to get better that has allowed us to have the success that we've had."

The phenomenal thing about the Shorebirds' bullpen is that it's not just the pitchers at the back end who are dominating. Every single arm has gone out and produced with the full support of the relief corps behind them. For the 'pen, it's never an individual focus, but rather about the collective whole. Ramsey thinks this culture that his relievers have cultivated is part of what has allowed them to be so successful.

"When you see that it's fun as a coach to watch, it's something you can only hope for, and I think it shows that nobody wants anybody to fail," said Ramsey. "They go out there and root for each other and it's a lot of fun to see them do that and celebrate each other's wins and successes, and it allows them to build off that and help each other instead of fight each other."

For the pitchers, it's about building an internal competition where they can help each other grow and get better.

"I would say it's a healthy competition," said Shorebirds reliever Matt Hammonds. "If so-and-so goes out and dominates, now I want to go out and dominate too. Nobody wants to be the guy that lets the bullpen down. We really feed off each other very well and just motivate each other."

From the players' perspective, this whole season has just been about having a good time and relishing in the good results that follow. Just take a look out at the bullpen the next time the Shorebirds hit a home run. The entire group goes bonkers, jumping and dancing and reverting almost to fan status as they cheer on their squad. When you're as relaxed and confident as this bunch is, it becomes almost difficult not to have a good time.



"We're all just a tight knit group of guys who pull for each other and we try to be positive and uplifting," said Hammonds. "The more positive we are, the more fun we tend to have and we try to bring the energy for the team."

One guy who shows off this vibe consistently is reliever Jhon Peluffo. Peluffo, who in the past has been a starter, has taken very well to being in the 'pen this year posting an ERA under 3.00. When "Jump Around" by House of Pain comes on during the game you can most certainly see Peluffo hopping around in the dugout. Or maybe you'll catch him interacting with fans during the game or having a pre-game catch with a kid up on the grassy berm. Either way, Peluffo is the living embodiment of this bullpen.

"Right now I'm just having fun," said Peluffo. "I started really interacting with fans last year, it's fun to see the fans come to the game and see us play, so let's see how much fun we can have with the fans."

When the fun comes as easy as the strikeouts, how can you not?



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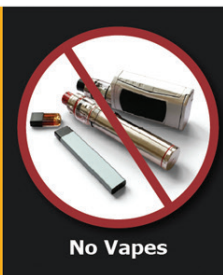
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