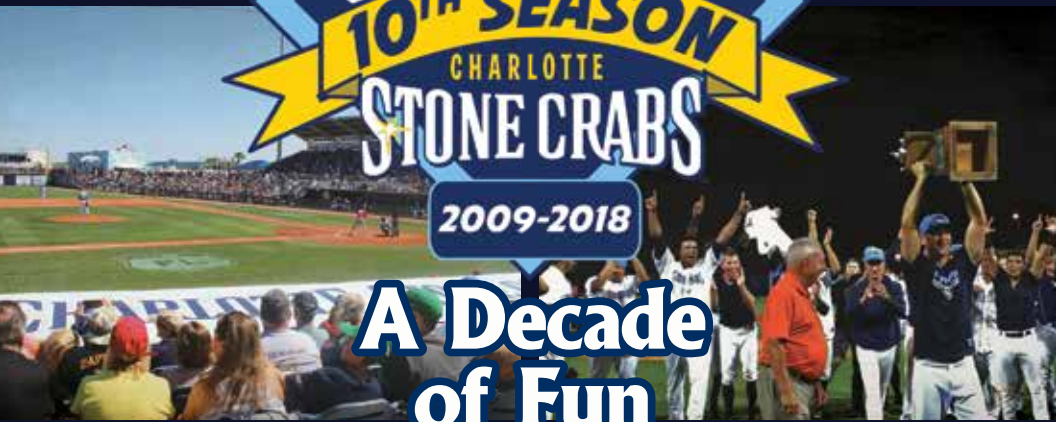


THE CATCH



A Decade of Fun



2018 FIRST-HALF PROGRAM

Presented By:



pepsi

STONECRABSBASEBALL.com



2018 SCHEDULE

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
FTM	FTM	FTM	FTM	FTM	FTM	FTM
12:35						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
FTM	DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY	LAK	LAK
12:35						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
LAK	OFF	CLR	CLR	CLR	PMB	PMB
		6:35	6:35	6:35	6:05	6:05
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
PMB	STL	STL	TAM	TAM	TAM	TAM
24						

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		STL	2	3	4	5
		6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:05
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
BRD	FTM	FTM	FTM	JUP	JUP	JUP
12:35						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
OFF	LAK	LAK	LAK	LAK	JUP	JUP
	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:05	6:05
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
JUP	TAM	TAM	TAM	FTM	FTM	FTM
12:35				6:35	6:35	6:05
27	28	29	30	31		
FTM	OFF	PMB	PMB	PMB		
12:35						

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					BRD	2
					6:35	6:05
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BRD	DUN	DUN	DUN	DUN	CLR	CLR
12:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:05
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CLR	DUN	DUN	DUN	DUN	ALL STAR	ALL STAR
12:35					BREAK	BREAK
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
ALL STAR	LAK	LAK	LAK	PMB	PMB	PMB
BREAK	6:35	6:35	10:05am			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
PMB	OFF	LAK	LAK	LAK	TAM	TAM
					6:35	6:05

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TAM	FTM	FTM	FLA	FLA	CLR	CLR
12:35	6:35	6:35				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
CLR	STL	STL	STL	JUP	JUP	JUP
6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:05	6:05
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
JUP	TAM	TAM	TAM	JUP	JUP	JUP
6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:05	6:05
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
OFF	FLA	FLA	FLA	STL	STL	STL
29	30	31				
STL	OFF	FLA				
6:35		6:35				

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			FLA	FLA	DUN	DUN
			6:35	6:35	6:35	6:05
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DUN	BRD	BRD	BRD	DUN	DUN	DUN
6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:05	6:05
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
DUN	FTM	FTM	FTM	FTM	PMB	PMB
6:35					6:35	6:05
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
PMB	OFF	BRD	BRD	CLR	CLR	CLR
6:35						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
CLR	DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY	FLA	
	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	6:35	

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
						FLA
						6:05
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
FLA						
12:35						

OPPONENTS

FSL NORTH	FSL SOUTH
CLR - Clearwater Threshers	BRD - Bradenton Marauders
DAY - Daytona Tortugas	FTM - Fort Myers Miracle
DUN - Dunedin Blue Jays	JUP - Jupiter Hammerheads
FLA - Florida Fire Frogs	PMB - Palm Beach Cardinals
LAK - Lakeland Flying Tigers	STL - St. Lucie Mets
TAM - Tampa Tarpons	

FIREWORKS **HOME** **AWAY**

FIREWORKS SATURDAYS!

Fireworks Nights at 6:05pm:

APRIL 7TH
APRIL 21ST
MAY 5TH
MAY 19TH
MAY 26TH
JUNE 9TH
 PRESENTED BY WAWA

JUNE 30TH
JULY 21ST
 PRES. BY THE FLORIDA
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AUG. 11TH
AUG. 18TH
SEP. 1ST

UPCOMING PROMOTIONS

Saturday, April 21st at 6:05PM
Postgame Fireworks!

Plus, it's North Port Community Night!



Friday, May 4th
at 6:35PM
Star Wars Night!

Saturday, May 5th, 6:05pm
Cinco de Mayo & Fireworks!



Friday, May 18th at 6:35pm
Clawford Poster Giveaway
for the first 500!



Saturday, May 19th at 6:05pm
Postgame Fireworks & Armed Forces Night!
 Presented By:
EYEGLASS WORLD

Community Free Sundays
 presented by King Plastic Corp.



Thirsty Thursdays
 pres. by Classic Rock Z105

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING!



\$1 DRAFTS FROM 4:30-5:30PM
\$1 DRAFTS FROM 5:30-7:30PM



Friday, May 25th, 6:35PM

School's Out for Summer-Free Admission
for Kids 18 & Under, Teachers & Staff!

Saturday, May 26th at 6:05pm
Postgame Fireworks & \$15 All-You-Can-Eat Picnic!



Friday, June 8th, 6:35PM
Freaky Friday: Kids 18 & Under Eat Free!



Saturday, June 9th at 6:05pm
Postgame Fireworks & Team Photo Giveaway (500)!

Presented by:





A DECADE OF FUN

By: Public Address Announcer Josh Grant

There are very few things in life that I've committed 10 years to, but Charlotte Sports Park is one of them. When asked to sit down and write a reflection of the last 10 years, I honestly didn't know where to start, for a couple of reasons. For starters, I didn't want to bore you with the minute details from my cat-bird seat. And secondly, this article is more about the great fan experiences had at Charlotte Sports Park from all perspectives. Because when it boils down to it, we are all fans of the game. Baseball is the perfect game, without question. CSP is the perfect environment for the perfect game. And while this article definitely has some imperfections, here is my A-Z list of some of the great memories of the first 10 years of Charlotte Stone Crabs baseball.

A- All-Star Game - The Stone Crabs held the 2012 All-Star Game at Charlotte Sports Park in front of 5,678 fans. The South squad, led by Stone Crabs All-Stars C.J. Riefenhauser, Chris Rearick, Derek Dietrich, and Mikie Mahtook led the South Division to a 6-3 victory.

B- Rocco Baldelli - A brainchild of former marketing manager Jonathan Gantt, the Stone Crabs hosted Rocco Baldelli Mustache Night on August 4th, 2010. Baldelli,

who was rehabbing for the Tampa Bay Rays, is not only responsible for the greatest upper-lip wear in Stone Crabs history, but the single greatest promotion held at CSP.

C- Alex Cobb - Cobb, a fourth round pick of the Rays in 2006, threw the first pitch in Stone Crabs history. Cobb would finish the season with an 8-5 record in '09 before becoming a lynchpin in the Rays rotation in 2011.

D- Dollar Drafts - Thursday is a favorite amongst fans at Charlotte Sports Park, as fans have been able to purchase dollar draft beers and dollar fountain sodas. However, in 2018, the Stone Crabs have unveiled 50 cent draft beers from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Can't find a better deal than that!

E- Eleven-in-a-row - During their championship run in 2015, the Stone Crabs struggled mightily in August. From July 31st through August 12th, the Stone Crabs dropped 11 games in a row. Despite winning their next two games, they then lost eight in a row to cap off the worst month in franchise history.

F- Jared Forma - Forma took over the sinking Stone Crabs' front office in 2013 as the fourth GM in four years. Forma has solidified the front office while rejuvenating the fan experience at Charlotte Sports Park. Known better as the "Fans' Man," Forma is always up for a good conversation with the Charlotte Sports Park faithful.

G- Greg Thomas - Thomas, along with Jim Dumais, Ralph Miller, Ken and Marianne Rambo, and Jack Scheffler, have been guiding fans to their seats and helping solve the world's problems (well, CSP problems) since 2009.

H- Joe Hart - Hart, the Stone Crabs General Manager from inception in 2008, until late 2011, deserves many thanks from the Charlotte County community as his community-centered focus helped bring back good feelings about baseball in Charlotte County.

I- Independence Day Celebration - Each year, the Stone Crabs hold our Third of July Spectacular to honor America. Widely considered the greatest night of the year, each one gets bigger and better!

J- Michael Johns - Johns, who started managing in the Rays system in 2010, took over in 2015 for now-Durham Bulls manager, Jared Sandburg. In his first year, Johns guided the Stone Crabs through the greatest first half in franchise history (45-25), labored through the worst August stretch in franchise history (6-20) and ultimately, raised the Florida State League Championship trophy.

FLORIDA CANCER SPECIALISTS & Research Institute

Alexander Glick, MD

Christopher Lobo, MD

Eric T. Lubiner, DO

Ivor Percent, MD

Vance Wright-Browne, MD

CHARLOTTE STONE CRABS

Caring for Patients in North Port & Port Charlotte

3085 Bobcat Village Center Road, North Port
22395 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte

FLCancer.com



K- Kevin Kiermaier - The current face of the Rays spent 57 games here at CSP in 2012. Kiermaier hit .260 with seven doubles and 12 RBI before a wrist injury sidelined him for the rest of the season. While the offensive numbers were less than spectacular, his defensive prowess showed his potential as a platinum-glove outfielder.

L- Hak Ju-Lee - Lee was acquired in the franchise-altering trade between the Rays and Chicago Cubs, which also brought Brandon Guyer, Sam Fuld, and All-Star starting pitcher, Chris Archer, to Tampa Bay. Lee hit .318 in 97 games with the Stone Crabs and looked to be on the fast track to the Major Leagues. However, in 2013 with the Triple-A Durham Bulls, Lee suffered a torn ACL and sadly, has never regained his 2013 form.

M- Roy Morales - On May 19th, 2017, as the Stone Crabs hosted the Jupiter Hammerheads, Morales went back behind home plate to catch a routine foul ball. As the catcher dove into the protective netting to catch the pop-up, the net ripped off its moorings attached to the stadium. Due to the severity of the damage and difficulty of putting it back up, the Hammerheads and Stone Crabs were forced to continue the postponed game, and play another on the backfields of Charlotte Sports Park. Stone Crabs GM Jared Forma, along with assistant GM Jeff Cook, gave out free hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and chips to the faithful fans who stayed in attendance.

N- New Ownership - It was 2016 and it was time for a change. The Caribbean Baseball Initiative, led by former Pawtucket Red Sox GM/Owner Lou Schwegheimer, bought the Stone Crabs from then-owners, Ripken Baseball. The CBI Rays family-friendly strategy and community-based initiatives have and will continue to pave the way for future baseball success in Charlotte County for years to come.

O- Opening Day - The Stone Crabs' have a 5-4 record on opening day, with two of those wins coming against this year's opening day opponent, the Fort Myers Miracle (2012, 2015).

P- Perfect Game - Late in the 2012 season and eliminated from playoff contention, the Stone Crabs continued to play out the rest of the regular season on a hot, August night against the Palm Beach Cardinals. Chris Corrigan, a 30th round pick in the 2009 draft, tossed the first perfect game in Charlotte Sports Park history, blanking the hapless Stone Crabs, 8-0.

Q- Juniel Querecuto - One of the unlikeliest call-ups in Tampa Bay Rays history, Querecuto hit .293 in 41 games as a Stone Crab in 2015. The infielder never hit higher than .242 between Montgomery and Durham, but was a late-season call-up by the Rays in 2016.



R- Cal Ripken, Jr. - The "Iron Man" along with his brother, Billy, purchased the then-Vero Beach Rays, and moved them to Port Charlotte in 2009. If not for them and the Tampa Bay Rays, there may still have been a baseball void in Charlotte County to this day.

S- Blake Snell - Not many pitchers can top what Snell did in 2015. Snell went 15-4 with a 1.41 ERA, across three levels. The lefty started in Port Charlotte, and ran a 3-0 record while not allowing a run, before being called up to Montgomery. In fact, Snell did not allow a single run until May 23rd; his fifth start with the Biscuits.

T- Tim Tebow - Tebow-Mania visited Charlotte Sports Park from July 29th-August 1st and August 22nd-24th of 2017. Although Tebow struggled mightily against the Stone Crabs (3-for-18, .166), his seventh-inning home run in front of a record attendance of 7,515 electrified the crowd, both Mets and Stone Crabs fans alike.

U- Melvin Upton - The artist formerly known as B.J. Upton took the first offensive swings for the Stone Crabs while on rehab assignment from Tampa Bay. Upton went 4-for-9 in three games with the Stone Crabs before returning to the Rays lineup.

V- Stephen Vogt - Arguably the single greatest player/personality in Stone Crabs history, Vogt led the FSL with a .345 average with eight home runs and 47 RBI in 2010. Vogt's affable demeanor and willingness to interact with staff and fans alike made him a fan favorite with all at CSP.

W- Kean Wong - As the Stone Crabs' starting second baseman for a large part of the season, Wong hit .274 with 36 RBI, but is remembered by most as the player who drew the walk-off walk in the Stone Crabs' FSL Championship-clinching game.

X- No X's - Although the Stone Crabs have never had a player's name who started with an X, there has been a player with two X's in their first name. Maxx Tissenbaum was a member of the Stone Crabs' for the 2014-2015 seasons. Tissenbaum, who was an FSL All-Star for Charlotte in 2014, hit .275 with 25 doubles and 84 RBI in 159 games in a Stone Crabs' uniform.

Y- YOU - The Charlotte Stone Crabs attribute all of the success we've achieved because of YOU, our fans. We firmly believe that we have the greatest fan base in the Florida State League! Thank you!

Z- Zach Quate - Arguably the greatest closer in Stone Crabs' history, Quate saved 25 games in 2010. Using his devastating slider, Quate was almost untouchable, finishing the season with a 1.49 ERA, while holding opponents to a .199 batting average.

GROUPS & PICNICS



starting at
\$7

Charlotte Sports Park is the perfect destination for any occasion! Book a group with 10+ people and enjoy the following:

GROUP BENEFITS

- Box or Reserved seats together at a 40% discounted rate!
- PA & Video Board recognition
- 10% off merchandise in team store
- One member from each group will win free tickets to another game!

PICNICS

- For 15-200 people, includes 2-Hour All-You-Can-Eat Buffet!

GROUP EXPERIENCES

- Field of Dreams
- High-5 Tunnel
- On-Field Performances
- National Anthem
- Presentation of Colors
- Ceremonial First Pitch

ASK ABOUT
OUR GROUP HAT
ADD-ON!

LUXURY SUITES

- Suites include 12 or 16 tickets.
- Includes Wait Staff & Special Menu!

RESERVE YOUR STONE CRABS GROUP OUTING TODAY!

GEAR UP!

Check out the Team Store to get the latest Stone Crabs apparel!

- ▶ CAPS
- ▶ T-SHIRTS
- ▶ BASEBALLS
- ▶ TRADING CARDS
- ▶ NOVELTIES
- ▶ JEWELRY



Visit the online store at

STONECRABSBASEBALL.com

The Florida State League

North

South

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CLEARWATER, FL
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES



DAYTONA TORTUGAS
DAYTONA BEACH, FL
CINCINNATI REDS



DUNEDIN BLUE JAYS
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FLORIDA FIRE FROGS
KISSIMMEE, FL
ATLANTA BRAVES



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TAMPA TARPONS
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BRADENTON MARAUDERS
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PITTSBURGH PIRATES



CHARLOTTE STONE CRABS
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL
TAMPA BAY RAYS



FORT MYERS MIRACLE
FORT MYERS, FL
MINNESOTA TWINS



JUPITER HAMMERHEADS
JUPITER, FL
MIAMI MARLINS



PALM BEACH CARDINALS
JUPITER, FL
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



ST. LUCIE METS
PORT ST. LUCIE, FL
NEW YORK METS



Tampa Bay Rays
Affiliates



FRONT OFFICE STAFF



Jared Forma
General Manager



Jeff Cook
Assistant General
Manager



Hallie Rubins
Director of Group Sales



Lori Engleman
Director of Finance



Brittany Jones
Director of Food
& Beverage



Andrew Crawford
Stadium Operations
Manager



Zach Jones
Director of Corporate
Partnerships



Ashley Stephenson
Fan Engagement
Manager



John Vittas
Broadcasting & Media
Relations Manager



Nikki Chang
Fan Engagement
Assistant



Cameron Dennis
Sales Assistant



Chance Fernandez
Video Assistant



Ben Ganderton
Stadium Ops.
Assistant



Jennifer Lundrigan
Box Office Assistant



Brianna Malone
Fan Engagement
Assistant



Sam Rosenblum
Sales Assistant

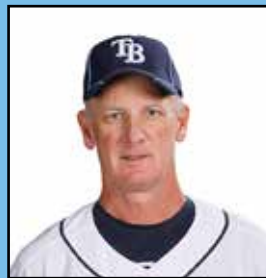
FIELD STAFF



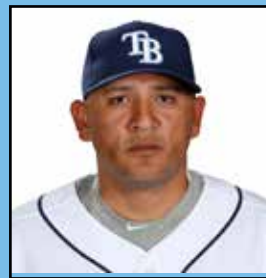
Manager: Reinaldo Ruiz, 38, enters his first season as Manager of the Stone Crabs after spending the last three seasons as Manager of the Rays Low-A affiliate Bowling Green Hot Rods. Ruiz led the Hot Rods to a 225-189 (.543) record over his first three years as a professional Manager which included playoff appearances the last two seasons. A player for the Astros organization for eight years, the Venezuela native has been a coach in the Rays organization since 2007. Reinaldo and his wife, Lorena, have two daughters, Renata and Lucia.



Hitting Coach: Joe Szekely, 56, returns to Port Charlotte after spending last season as Hitting Coach for the Bowling Green Hot Rods. 2018 will mark his 14th season in the Tampa Bay Rays organization and his ninth as a member of the Stone Crabs staff. Prior to his 14 seasons with the Rays, Szekely spent six years in the Kansas City Royals organization from 1999-2004. The son of a former Major Leaguer, Szekely played in the Minor Leagues for 10 years, spending time in the Royals, Dodgers, Blue Jays, Pirates and Braves organizations.



Pitching Coach: Steve "Doc" Watson, 57, returns to Port Charlotte for his fifth consecutive season and seventh overall. Prior to joining the Rays, Watson spent 12 seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization upon completion of his playing career, then coached for five years with the Baltimore Orioles organization before spending three seasons with the Miami Marlins organization. Originally from Norfolk, Virginia, Watson played for the Cincinnati Reds' system for five seasons.



Coach: German Melendez, 37, enters his second season with the Stone Crabs. Melendez began his Rays tenure as a coach for their Venezuelan Summer League team from 2010-2012 before managing them from 2013-2015. In 2016, he served as Manager of the Rays Dominican Summer League team. The Venezuela native played for 10 seasons in the minor leagues. Melendez played internationally for three seasons before coming stateside where he played catcher for three seasons and then pitched for four.



CLAWS FOR PAWS COMING IN 2018

By: Ashley Stephenson

Those with four-legged friends will have the chance to attend five different Stone Crabs games with their loyal canines this season during a series of “Claws for Paws” Nights presented by the Animal Welfare League!

One Friday home game each month, Charlotte Sports Park will be dog friendly and fans are invited to bring their leashed dogs to take in a baseball game. The Animal Welfare League will be on site to set up areas of shade for those that bring their pets and will also have some adoptable animals to see before the game!

The Animal Welfare League is a non-profit humane organization committed to animal protection and welfare in Charlotte County. Fans in attendance at a Claws for Paws game can do their part by bringing donations of items on the Animal Welfare League wish list below, including Purina brand pet food, leashes, cat litter and more. To learn more about the Animal Welfare League, visit www.awlshelter.org. And be sure to attend a game this season with your favorite furry friend!



Animal Welfare League Wish List

Dog/Puppy

Dry Food

- PURINA ONE BRAND
- SMARTBLEND ADULT
- SMARTBLEND HEALTHY PUPPY
- SMARTBLEND SMALL BITES ADULT

Wet Food (Grain Free)

ANY PURINA BRAND WET FOOD

Toys

INDESTRUCTIBLE (KONG & NYLABONE)

Collars (with plastic clip)

LARGE OR EXTRA LARGE

Rope Slip Lead

4 OR 6 FT. LONG

Cat/Kitten

Dry Food

- PURINA ONE BRAND
- SMARTBLEND ADULT CHICKEN
- SMARTBLEND ADULT SALMON
- SMARTBLEND HEALTHY KITTEN

Wet Food (Grain Free)

ANY PURINA BRAND WET FOOD

Cat Litter (Non Clumping)

- WALMART
- SPECIAL KITTY (Red or Blue bags) 25LBS

Cat Litter Clumping

Office Supplies

- Index Cards (Pink or Blue)
- Highlighters
- Paper Clips
- Pens
- White Copy Paper
- Postage Stamps
- Tape for Dispenser
- File Folders
- #10 Envelopes

CHARLOTTE STONE CRABS ALL-DECADE TEAM BALLOT

Select one (1) player per category unless otherwise noted. **Bold** indicates Stone Crabs single-season record.

Catcher

- ____ Mike Marjama (2015)
.302 AVG, 9 HR, 52 RBI, .801 OPS; Midseason All-Star, 5 MLB games
- ____ Brett Sullivan (2017)
.301 AVG, 8 HR, 67 RBI; Midseason & Postseason All-Star
- ____ Stephen Vogt (2009)
.345 AVG, 42 XBH, 47 RBI, .910 OPS; Midseason & Postseason All-Star; 521 MLB games

Second Baseman

- ____ Tyler Bortnick (2011)
145 H, 43 SB, 79 BB, 96 R, 205 TB, .306 AVG, .860 OPS; Midseason & Postseason All-Star
- ____ Cody Cipriano (2009)
.297 AVG, 25 XBH, .858 OPS in 72 games; Midseason All-Star
- ____ Brandon Lowe (2017)
.311 AVG, 46 XBH, **.524 SLG**, **.927 OPS**; FSL Player of the Year; No. 9 2B prospect

Third Baseman

- ____ Tyler Goeddel (2015)
.269 AVG, 39 XBH, 61 RBI; 92 MLB games
- ____ Greg Sexton (2011)
.313 AVG, 27 XBH, 59 RBI, .920 OPS; Midseason All-Star
- ____ Richie Shaffer (2013)
.254 AVG, 45 XBH, 73 RBI; Midseason & Postseason All-Star; 51 MLB games



Voting will end on June 10th. Please return your ballot to Guest Services.

First Baseman

- ____ Jake Bauers (2015)
.267 AVG, 6 HR, 38 RBI, .791 OPS in 59 G; Midseason All-Star; No. 45 overall prospect
- ____ Michael Sheridan (2011)
.250 AVG, **38 2B**, 38 BB; Best Defensive First Baseman (BA)
- ____ Henry Wrigley (2010)
.292 AVG, **14 HR**, 51 RBI, .833 OPS

Shortstop

- ____ Willy Adames (2015)
.258 AVG, 34 XBH, 51 R; Midseason All-Star; No. 16 overall prospect
- ____ Derek Dietrich (2012)
.282 AVG, 10 HR, 58 RBI, .811 OPS; Midseason All-Star; 459 MLB games in 5 seasons
- ____ Hak-Ju Lee (2011)
.318 AVG, **11 3B**, 28 SB, .832 OPS; Midseason & Postseason All-Star
- ____ Shawn O'Malley (2009)
.268 AVG, 58 BB, 40 SB; Postseason All-Star; 124 MLB games over 3 seasons

Outfielders (Select 3)

- ____ Willie Argo (2013)
.308 AVG, 37 SB, .824 OPS
- ____ Ryan Boldt (2017)
.295 AVG, 62 RBI, 23 SB; Postseason All-Star; No. 26 Rays prospect
- ____ Kevin Kiermaier (2012)
.260 AVG, 10 SB, .361 OBP in 57 games; 463 MLB games in 5 seasons; 2 Gold Gloves
- ____ Mikie Mahtook (2012)
.290 AVG, 27 XBH, 19 SB, .777 OPS; Mid & Postseason All-Star; 215 MLB games in 3 seasons
- ____ Taylor Motter (2013)
.290 AVG, 20 SB, .778 OPS in 66 games; 125 MLB games
- ____ Brett Nommensen (2011)
.290 AVG, 25 XBH in 87 games, .817 OPS; Midseason All-Star

(Continued On Next Page)

CHARLOTTE STONE CRABS

ALL-DECADE TEAM BALLOT CONTINUED

Starting Pitchers (Select 5)

- ____ Nick Barnese (2010)
8-4, 3.02 ERA, 1.14 WHIP, 100 K
- ____ Buddy Borden (2015)
2.97 ERA, 104 H in 127 IP (28 G, 17 GS); Midseason All-Star
- ____ Alex Cobb (2009)
8-5, 3.03 ERA, 1.18 WHIP, 700 MLB innings in 6 seasons
- ____ Joseph Cruz (2010)
13-6, 2.85 ERA, 131 K
- ____ Jacob Faria (2015)
10-1, 1.33 ERA, 0.98 WHIP in 74 IP; Midseason & Postseason All-Star; 86 MLB innings
- ____ Jesse Hahn (2013)
2.15 ERA, 1.09 WHIP, .218 AVG in 19 GS; Midseason All-Star; 286 MLB innings in 4 seasons
- ____ Brent Honeywell (2015 & 2016)
9-3, 2.97 ERA, 1.04 WHIP, .224 AVG in 121 IP; Midseason All-Star; No. 12 overall prospect
- ____ German Marquez (2015)
3.56 ERA, 104 K in 26 G (23 GS); 182 MLB innings
- ____ Matt Moore (2010)
3.36 ERA, 1.18 WHIP, 208 K in 144 IP; Midseason All-Star; 2013 MLB All-Star (782 IP)
- ____ Enny Romero (2012)
3.93 ERA, .195 AVG, 107 K; 136 MLB innings in 4 seasons
- ____ Blake Snell (2014)
3.94 ERA, 77 K, 69 H in 75 IP; 218 MLB innings in 2 seasons
- ____ Hunter Wood (2015 & 2016)
2.13 ERA, 0.94 WHIP, .177 AVG in 2015 IP

Relief Pitchers (Select 3)

- ____ Kevin Brandt (2014)
1.17 ERA, 39 H in 54 IP
- ____ Alex Colome (2011)
9-5, 3.66 ERA, 78 H in 105 IP; Midseason All-Star; 2016 MLB All-Star (84 SV)
- ____ Darin Downs (2009)
12-4, 2.00 ERA, 1.15 WHIP in 20 G (19 GS); Midseason & Postseason All-Star; 90 MLB IP
- ____ Marquis Fleming (2010)
2.49 ERA, 96 K in 72 IP; Midseason All-Star
- ____ Adam Liberatore (2011)
3.09 ERA, 88 H in 90 IP; 75 MLB innings in 3 seasons
- ____ Zach Quate (2010)
25 saves, 1.49 ERA, 0.95 WHIP, 90 K in 72 IP; Midseason All-Star
- ____ Felipe Rivero (2013)
9-7, 3.40 ERA in 127 IP; 2.87 ERA in 197 MLB innings over 3 seasons
- ____ Ryne Stanek (2015)
4-2, 1.78 ERA, 33 H in 50 IP; 20 MLB innings

Manager

- ____ Michael Johns
3 seasons, 2015 FSL Champions, .499 win pct.
- ____ Jim Morrison
4 seasons, 2 division championships, .492 win pct.

Utility

Write-in vote; Choose any player not already selected

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\$10 Per Person Includes:

- *Game Ticket
- *Gifts For Kids
- *Happy Birthday Announcement
- *Signed Ball for Birthday Child
- *Option to buy Hot Dog or Chicken Finger food add-on

Birthday Suite Package

\$25 Per Person Includes:

- *Suite Ticket
- *Gifts For Kids
- *Happy Birthday Announcement
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PETER BAYER: PITCHER

HT: 6-4 WT: 195 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 3/6/94 in Santa Monica, CA
Acquired: 9th Round - 2016 (Cal Poly Pomona)
2017 Club: Bowling Green



Bayer ranked third on Low-A Bowling Green in strikeouts (95) last season, holding Midwest League hitters to a .229 average. His funky delivery makes his low-90s fastball tough to hit. Bayer began his college career at Richmond University before transferring to Cal Poly Pomona, where he struck out 103 batters in 2016 to lead the conference.

LUCIUS FOX: INF

HT: 6-1 WT: 175 Bats/Throws: S/R
Born: 7/2/97 in Nassau, Bahamas
Acquired: Trade with Giants on 8/1/16
2017 Club: Bowling Green/Charlotte



Fox headlines a group of returners from the 2017 Stone Crabs team that made a strong playoff push in the second half. Named the Rays' Baserunner of the Year, Fox stole 30 bases last season, the second most in the organization. Fox joined the Stone Crabs on July 25 and quickly wowed the crowd with his remarkable range at shortstop. He was acquired in the Matt Moore trade in 2015 after signing with the Giants out of the Bahamas.

BROCK BURKE: PITCHER

HT: 6-4 WT: 180 Bats/Throws: L/L
Born: 8/4/96 in Chicago, IL
Acquired: 3rd Round - 2014 (Evergreen HS)
2017 Club: Bowling Green/Charlotte



A third round pick out of high school in 2014, Burke went 11-6 with a 2.99 ERA at two different levels last year. The lanky lefty posted a 1.04 ERA with a 0.77 WHIP over his final four starts with Bowling Green, earning a promotion to the Stone Crabs on June 8. His track record of strong performance goes back to 2016, when he finished tied for the team lead in strikeouts (61) for Low-A Hudson Valley.

TRISTAN GRAY: INF

HT: 6-3 WT: 185 Bats/Throws: L/R
Born: 3/22/96 in Houston, TX
Acquired: Trade with Pirates on 2/22/18
2017 Club: West Virginia Black Bears



Acquired from the Pirates in the Corey Dickerson trade on February 22, Gray immediately impressed the Rays with his versatility, athleticism and advanced approach. Those attributes earned him a spot with the Stone Crabs in his first full pro season after being drafted in the 13th round out of Rice. Gray drove in 37 runs in 53 games for Low-A West Virginia last summer after leading Rice in hitting (.313) while clubbing eight home runs during his college season.

J.D. BUSFIELD: PITCHER

HT: 6-7 WT: 230 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 5/5/95 in Los Angeles, CA
Acquired: 7th Round - 2016 (Loyola Marymount)
2017 Club: Bowling Green



Busfield mastered his control last year for the Hot Rods, allowing just 20 walks over 109.1 innings of work. He posted a 2.43 ERA in the first half of the season, inducing twice as many ground balls as fly balls with his sharp sinker. A seventh round pick out of Loyola Marymount in 2016, Busfield set the school's single-season record for saves (14) as a sophomore in 2015.

SPENCER JONES: PITCHER

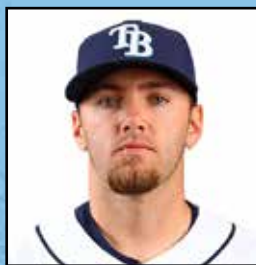
HT: 6-5 WT: 205 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 2/22/94 in Sparks, NV
Acquired: 10th Round - 2016 (Univ. of Washington)
2017 Club: Bowling Green/Charlotte



Jones enjoyed a breakout season in 2017, working to a 2.25 ERA over 68 innings of relief. He struck out more than a batter per inning and held the opposition to a .223 average. The Sparks, Nevada native was promoted to the Stone Crabs on June 26 and improved his ERA to 1.71 with Charlotte. In 2016, Jones was named Second Team All-Pac 12 as a senior at Washington, where he earned a degree in economics.

BRANDON LAWSON: PITCHER

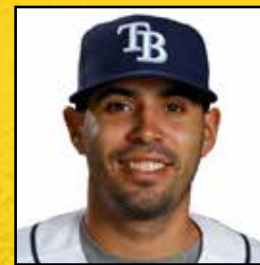
HT: 6-3 WT: 205 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 12/13/94 in Festus, MO
Acquired: 12th Round - 2016 (Univ. of South FL)
2017 Club: Charlotte/Durham



Lawson pitched in more games (35) than any pitcher on the Stone Crabs last season and will return to Port Charlotte for an encore in 2018. Lawson hit his stride late in the year as a starter, posting a 3.50 ERA over eight starts. A 12th round pick out of South Florida in 2016, Lawson led the Bulls in strikeouts (111) that spring and placed top-10 in the American Athletic Conference in strikeouts, ERA (2.50) and opponents' batting average (.224).

PETER MARIS: INF

HT: 5-10 WT: 175 Bats/Throws: L/R
Born: 9/16/93 in Anaheim, CA
Acquired: Free Agent, 6/15/15
2017 Club: Charlotte



The super utility man for the Stone Crabs in 2017, Maris returns to Port Charlotte to anchor a versatile infield in 2018. The Dana Point, California native hit .290 with six home runs and 39 walks (.359 OBP) last season, playing six different positions on the diamond. Maris starred at UC Santa Barbara for four years and was the only Gaucho to appear in all 120 games from 2014-15.

JOSH LOWE: OF

HT: 6-4 WT: 205 Bats/Throws: L/R
Born: 2/2/98 in Chesapeake, VA
Acquired: 1st Round (13th) - 2016 (Pope HS)
2017 Club: Bowling Green



Just 20 years old, Lowe notched 36 extra-base hits and drew 42 walks for Low-A Bowling Green last year, his first full season since graduating high school. The Chesapeake, Va. native hit .268 over 118 games for the Hot Rods, finishing fourth in the Rays' organization with 22 stolen bases. Named the best athlete in the system by Baseball America, Lowe will man center field for the Stone Crabs in 2018. The Gatorade Player of the Year in Georgia in 2016, the sweet-swinging lefty is ranked as the 11th-best prospect in the Tampa Bay organization by both major outlets.

MILES MASTRABUONI: INF

HT: 5-11 WT: 175 Bats/Throws: L/R
Born: 10/31/95 in Livermore, CA
Acquired: 14th Round - 2016 (Univ. of Nevada)
2017 Club: Bowling Green



A Midwest League All-Star last year, Mastrabuoni hit .264 over 104 games for Low-A Bowling Green, finishing second on the team in walks (51). He was one of just five Hot Rods to record 100 hits, splitting his time between second base and shortstop. After the season, the Nevada product was named the Rays' Erik Walker Award Community Champion, a distinction given to the Rays' minor leaguer who "exemplifies teamwork, sportsmanship and community involvement."

NATE LOWE: INF

HT: 6-4 WT: 235 Bats/Throws: L/R
Born: 7/7/95 in Chesapeake, VA
Acquired: 13th Round - 2015 (Mississippi State)
2017 Club: Bowling Green/Charlotte



A Midwest League All-Star last year, the power-hitting first baseman hit .293 with 36 walks over 63 games with Bowling Green before getting called up to the Stone Crabs on June 28. After a slow start, Lowe finished the season strong, batting .313 and slugging .488 over 23 games in August. A 13th round pick, Nate hit .348 with 49 RBI for Mississippi State in 2015, earning First Team All-SEC honors en route to the Bulldogs' regional title.

DEIVY MENDEZ: PITCHER

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 10/27/95 in San Pedro de Macoris, DR
Acquired: International Free Agent, 7/2/12
2017 Club: Bowling Green



Mendez pitched in more games than anyone on the Bowling Green Hot Rods last season, working 34 games. He allowed only 48 hits in 55.1 innings (.232 Opp. AVG). The Dominican Republic native led the team in strikeouts per nine innings (13.7), fanning 84 in total. He'll work to limit his walk totals this season.



Single: S or —
Double: D or ==
Triple: T or ≡
Home run: HR or ≡≡
Sacrifice: SH or SAC

Walk: B8
Strikeout: K
Called out on Strikes:
Balk: BK
Fielders choice: FC
Hit by pitch: HP
Wild pitch: WP
Passed ball: PB
Stolen base: SB
Double play: DP
Error: E
Sacrifice fly: SF
Intentional walk: IBB
Four fly: F
Force out: FO
Line drive: L
Bunt: B
Unassisted: U

#	PITCHER	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO

#	PITCHER	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO

DATE	GAME NO.	OPPONENT

Provided by MLB.com

Each position corresponds to a number:
1= Pitcher, 2=C, 3=1B, 4=2B, 5=3B,
6=SS, 7=LF, 8=CF, 9=RF.

If the hitter grounds out to shortstop, for example, write in "6-3," which shows the shortstop threw him out at first base. If the hitter flies out to left field, write a "7."

If the batter gets a hit, write in the hit according to which base he reached. Each corner of the box represents a base, with the lower-right corner being first!

If he singles, put a "s" in the lower right.
If he doubles, write a "s" in the upper right, and so on. For a walk, use "BB" in the lower right. As the runner advances, mark the appropriate symbol in the appropriate corner.

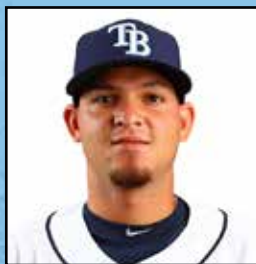
If a runner scores, put a circle at the bottom of the box, and inside the circle put the symbol of the play and/or the player that drove him in. For example, if the No. 5 hitter drives in two runs with a single, mark his single in the bottom right of his box and mark a circle with the number "5" in it in the boxes of the runners who score.

#	PITCHER	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO

ATTENDANCE	FIRST PITCH	TIME OF GAME
------------	-------------	--------------

ADRIAN NAVAS: PITCHER

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 4/12/96 in Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela
Acquired: International Free Agent, 1/24/13
2017 Club: Bowling Green



Navas placed fifth in the Rays' organization in strikeouts (123) in 2017, leading Low-A Bowling Green in innings (125.2) and starts (22). The Venezuelan right-hander pitched drastically better in the second half, going 8-3 with a 2.67 ERA, allowing 57 hits in 70.2 innings (.224 Opp. AVG). He went 5-2 with a 2.39 ERA for Low-A Hudson Valley in 2016.

KEVIN PADLO: INF

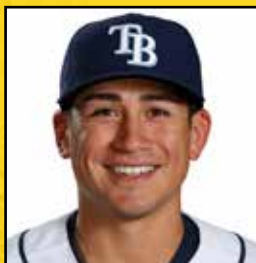
HT: 6-2 WT: 205 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 7/15/96 in Murrieta, CA
Acquired: Trade with Rockies on 1/28/16
2017 Club: Charlotte



Padlo played in 64 games for the Stone Crabs last season but missed half of the year due to a hand injury. He instead got the chance to shine in the Arizona Fall League, batting .259 with eight walks and 14 RBI in 22 games on the game's top prospect circuit. Acquired from the Rockies in the Jake McGee trade in 2016, Padlo has racked up 41 home runs and 198 RBI in his impressive minor league career.

DAVID OLMEDO-BARRERA: OF

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 Bats/Throws: L/R
Born: 6/22/94 in Glendale, CA
Acquired: 12th Round - 2015 (Cal State-Fullerton)
2017 Club: Charlotte



Olmedo-Barrera was a regular in the middle of the lineup for the Stone Crabs last season, finishing second on the team in games played (119), hits (109) and stolen bases (19). He hit .248 and drove in 48 runs while playing primarily left field. The former Big West Co-Player of the Year, Olmedo-Barrera was an All-American for Cal State Fullerton in 2016 when he batted .325 to lead the Titans, who reached the College World Series.

RENE PINTO: CATCHER

HT: 5-11 WT: 195 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 11/2/96 in Maracay, Venezuela
Acquired: International Free Agent, 1/24/09
2017 Club: Bowling Green



A terrific defensive catcher, Pinto has also hit everywhere he's played as a professional. Pinto batted .278 with 20 extra-base hits over 70 games with Bowling Green last season. Despite missing nearly two months with an injury, Pinto dominated left-handed pitchers, batting .375 against them. The Negro, Venezuela native also hit extremely well in 2015, leading the Venezuelan Summer League in batting average (.323), slugging percentage (.552) and extra-base hits (27) while being named an All-Star.

WILLY ORTIZ: PITCHER

HT: 6-1 WT: 180 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 7/20/95 in San Pedro de Macoris, DR
Acquired: International Free Agent, 6/30/12
2017 Club: Bowling Green



A member of the Rays' organization since 2012, Ortiz went 8-3 with a 3.06 ERA over 85.1 innings for Bowling Green last season. The season prior, he led the Appalachian League in wins, going a perfect 8-0 in 11 starts for the Princeton Rays. The right-hander made his United States debut on August 20, 2015 after pitching four seasons in the Dominican Summer League.

ROEL RAMIREZ: PITCHER

HT: 6-2 WT: 200 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 5/26/95 in Laredo, TX
Acquired: 8th Round - 2013 (United South HS)
2017 Club: Bowling Green/Charlotte



Ramirez returns to the Stone Crabs after making 26 appearances (six starts) for them last season. Ramirez is one of the hardest throwers on the team, having hit 98 miles per hour late last season. An eighth round pick in 2013, Ramirez hit better than .400 over three seasons at United South High School. His family raises horses on their ranch in Texas.

REIMIN RAMOS: PITCHER

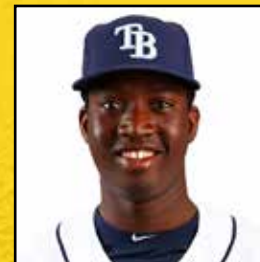
HT: 6-1 WT: 190 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 4/27/96 in Miches, Dominican Republic
Acquired: International Free Agent, 3/4/15
2017 Club: Bowling Green



Ramos was a force out of the bullpen for Bowling Green last season, saving six games while posting a 2.61 ERA. The Higuey, Dominican Republic native held opponents to the third lowest average amongst Midwest League relievers (.204). He pitched in the second most games (28) out of anyone on the Hot Rods.

JESUS SANCHEZ: OF

HT: 6-1 WT: 190 Bats/Throws: L/R
Born: 10/7/97 in Higuey, Dominican Republic
Acquired: International Free Agent, 7/2/14
2017 Club: Bowling Green



One of the most promising young prospects in baseball, Sanchez is ranked as a top-5 prospect in the Rays' organization by both MLB Pipeline and Baseball America. The Dominican outfielder was named the Rays' Minor League Player of the Year in 2017, leading the organization in home runs (15), RBI (82), total bases (227), hits (145) and runs (81). He paced the Midwest League in RBI and placed second in batting average (.305) and hits. A career .318 hitter over three minor league seasons, Sanchez will hit in the middle of the Stone Crabs' order in 2018 and could prove to be one of the most dangerous bats in the league.

DAVID RODRIGUEZ: CATCHER

HT: 5-11 WT: 200 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 2/25/96 in Barcelona, Venezuela
Acquired: International Free Agent, 8/5/12
2017 Club: Charlotte



Rodriguez played in 91 games for the Stone Crabs last season, proving to be a run-stopper behind the plate. The Barcelona, Venezuela native threw out 33 of 55 potential base stealers, a staggering 60 percent. He will look to find his offensive form from 2016, when he hit nine home runs and drove in 62 runs for Bowling Green.

CURTIS TAYLOR: PITCHER

HT: 6-6 WT: 215 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 7/25/95 in Port Coquitlam, BC, Canada
Acquired: Trade with Diamondbacks on 11/30/17
2017 Club: Kane County



One of the newest Rays, Taylor was acquired from the Arizona Diamondbacks in November in exchange for long-time reliever Brad Boxberger. Taylor struck out 68 batters in 62.1 innings for Low-A Kane County, holding the opposition to a .235 average. Originally drafted in the fourth round by Arizona, the tall righty burst onto the draft radar after two terrific seasons for the University of British Columbia.

KENNY ROSENBERG: PITCHER

HT: 6-1 WT: 195 Bats/Throws: L/L
Born: 7/9/95 in Mill Valley, CA
Acquired: 8th Round - 2016 (Cal State Northridge)
2017 Club: Bowling Green



Rosenberg was a strikeout artist for Bowling Green in 2017, placing third in the Midwest League and fourth in the Rays' organization with 133 punchouts. He fanned six batters or more in 15 of his 20 starts, improving his ERA by a full point in the second half of the season. An eighth round pick out of Cal State Northridge in 2016, Rosenberg went 6-1 with a 3.21 ERA in 2016, leading the Big West in strikeouts (118).

ROBBIE TENEROWICZ: INF

HT: 6-1 WT: 185 Bats/Throws: R/R
Born: 1/6/95 in San Mateo, CA
Acquired: 27th Round - 2016 (U. of Cal-Berkeley)
2017 Club: Bowling Green



A postseason Midwest League All-Star last year, Tenerowicz finished top-10 in the Rays' organization in hitting (.295). He swatted 39 extra-base hits in 94 games for Low-A Bowling Green, slugging .479. The Moraga, California resident played four different positions for the Hot Rods, with the most coming at second base (36). He earned All-Pac 12 honors for Cal in 2016.

MIKEY YORK: PITCHER

HT: 6-2 WT: 190 Bats/Throws: R/R
 Born: 2/24/96 in Las Vegas, NV
 Acquired: 5th Round - 2016 (C. of Southern NV)
 2017 Club: Hudson Valley/Bowling Green



York was thoroughly dominant at the Low-A level in 2017, going 5-2 with an 0.89 ERA over 11 starts. He allowed just 35 hits in 61 innings (.166 Opp. AVG) and walked only 11 batters all season (0.75 WHIP). A fifth round pick out of the Community College of Southern Nevada, York displayed an outstanding feel for pitching with both Hudson Valley and Bowling Green last season.

Meet CLAWFord

Clawford the crab was recruited by Stoney to take over as Director of Fun at Charlotte Sports Park upon Stoney's retirement after the 2015 season. A native of Port Charlotte, Clawford is entering his second season with the team. Clawford can be seen cheering on the Stone Crabs, dancing on the dugout, and entertaining fans. Be sure to say hello when you see Clawford at the ballpark, because his favorite thing is meeting fans and making new friends!

Name: Clawford
 Gender: Male
 Height: 6'0"
 Claw Length: 19.5 inches
 Resides: Charlotte Sports Park



CLAWFord's Word Search

N	P	X	F	Y	T	K	Z	T	K	M	C
H	W	S	T	R	I	K	E	M	T	G	G
B	T	Y	T	E	U	R	K	P	C	L	T
A	L	F	P	T	G	I	W	J	Y	O	B
S	D	U	S	D	T	O	K	D	E	V	H
E	L	G	H	O	Y	T	N	V	G	E	U
B	E	V	K	U	N	L	B	U	N	T	W
A	X	M	T	B	L	E	R	T	F	E	B
L	T	R	W	L	P	D	Y	F	Z	H	N
L	H	Y	O	E	Q	M	Z	S	E	Y	G
B	L	C	F	A	V	H	T	W	R	P	P
R	P	D	A	L	J	Q	N	A	N	O	R
Y	I	O	H	X	T	I	D	L	L	I	P
K	T	L	G	B	A	T	K	K	A	F	U
L	C	T	I	B	F	S	G	B	W	O	S
U	H	G	H	I	E	L	X	A	Q	S	U
A	E	D	F	C	L	A	W	F	O	R	D
R	R	T	W	S	F	A	K	R	D	O	D

Find these 9 words in the puzzle. Words may be vertical or horizontal.

BASEBALL
 BAT
 BUNT
 CLAWFORD
 DOUBLE
 GLOVE
 PITCHER
 STRIKE

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DON'T MISS BASEBALL CAMP IN JULY

By: Ashley Stephenson

Want to learn instruction from your favorite Stone Crabs players and coaches? Then sign up for our baseball camp **Wednesday-Friday, July 18-20 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** each day. The camp is open to children ages 6-14 and includes many perks!

Registration costs \$140 per camper and includes the following:

- 3 days of instruction & interaction with players and coaches; free lunch each day.
- An exclusive baseball camp hat.
- Two free tickets to the Stone Crabs game on Saturday, July 21st.
- Participation in a high-five tunnel at the game on July 21st.
- A player autograph session after camp each day
- A 5 x 7 on-field group photo and 4 wallet-sized individual camper photos!



DON'T MISS BASEBALL CAMP IN JULY

By: Ashley Stephenson



To register or for more information, please visit www.stonecrabsbaseball.com, or contact Nikki Chang at 941-206-3511 or by email at nchang@stonecrabsbaseball.com.

The Stone Crabs will play the Jupiter Hammerheads on Saturday, July 21st. The first 500 fans in attendance that evening will receive a free Christmas in July Giveaway presented by Solaris Healthcare and stick around after the game for postgame fireworks presented by the Florida Department of Health!



Don't miss the chance to be on the same field as the Stone Crabs and learn how to play the game from the professionals!



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LUNG



**United Way
of Charlotte County**

Use Online Code:
UNITED



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FLORIDA**



A YOUNG OUTFIELD READY TO SHINE IN 2018

By: John Vittas

Get ready, Stone Crabs fans, because one of the most talented, promising and electrifying outfielders in Minor League Baseball is about ready to shine bright at Charlotte Sports Park in 2018.

Three of the top 11 prospects in the Tampa Bay Rays' organization will eventually be playing the same outfield together for the Stone Crabs. Garret Whitley, Josh Lowe and Jesus Sanchez are all 21 years old or younger, all drove in 55 runs or more last season, and are all considered excellent defenders.

"We don't ever want to let anything drop," Garrett Whitley said. "We have the potential to be one of the best outfielders in the minor leagues. All three of us play a real good outfield and we can get to a lot of balls."

Which is good, given the amount of real estate there is to patrol at Charlotte Sports Park. Whitley, who will start on the disabled list with a shoulder injury, is the elder-statesman of the group at the ripe age of 21.

Two-thirds of the trio are first round picks. Whitley was taken out of high school in upstate New York in 2015, while Josh Lowe was selected 13th overall the year after. Sanchez, meanwhile, was signed for a reasonable price of \$400 thousand out of the Dominican Republic and has done nothing but hit ever since.

"He's an amazing hitter," Whitley said about Sanchez. "That dude, it's like every ball he hits falls in. It's crazy. He's just an exciting guy to see at the plate."

Sanchez was named the Rays' Minor League Player of the Year in 2017 after he hit .305 with 15 home runs and 82 RBI for Low-A Bowling Green, leading both the organization and Midwest League in a number of statistical categories.

A Winning Team

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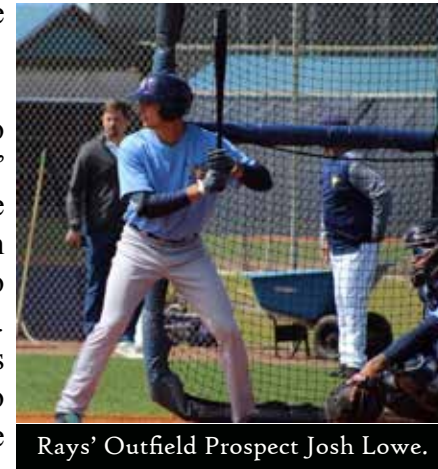
A YOUNG OUTFIELD READY TO SHINE IN 2018

By: John Vittas



But Sanchez' promise stretches far beyond the numbers.

"It's really tough to phase Jesus Sanchez, no matter how much pressure you put on him," Rays Assistant Director of Minor League Operations Jeff McLerran said. "You can throw him into any situation and he's going to take it on like he's playing on the back fields. That goes beyond his physical tool set and is something that sets him apart. You're going to get the same guy at bat, the same guy in the field and the same guy on the bases."



Rays' Outfield Prospect Josh Lowe.

Sanchez was recognized as a top-60 prospect in the sport by both Baseball America and MLB Pipeline in the offseason, drawing the praise of many scouts and front offices around baseball.

"He's going to be somebody that is going to be in the lineup every single day, whether it be in left, center or right," said McLerran. "We think he has the ability to play all three. For him, it's taking on that next challenge and being able to continue to put up the performances that he's had."

The trio of Sanchez, Whitley and Lowe will be linked together in the minds of many as they climb the Rays' system together. While Port Charlotte poses just another rung on the ladder, they hope to continue to grow their friendly yet competitive relationship in 2018.

"It's a really good relationship," Whitley said about the three of them. "Having that kind of competition between all of us, all being around the same age and striving towards the same goal, is cool because you can push each other and also lean on each other when you need help. When you get close on the field, you're going to gravitate towards each other off the field too."

When asked what Stone Crabs fans should expect to see from them this year, Whitley quickly summed it up, "They should expect to see some exciting defense, some really exciting baseball on both sides of the ball."

HERCULES FIELD FACTS

ARCHITECT- HOK Sport Facilities Group, Inc. (Kansas City, MO)

SIZE- 82 acres (That includes the ballpark and 5 ½ practice fields!)

FIELD DIMENSIONS-

- Left Field: 343 ft
- Left-Center Field: 384 ft
- Center Field: 414 ft
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BRENDAN MCKAY LOOKS TO BREAK THE MOLD

By: John Vittas



“Two-way player” is a term more often used in football – a player who can play both offense and defense, usually someone with supreme talent that the head coach just can’t afford keep off the field.

This year, two players are carrying that title into professional baseball in an experiment that many fans are excited to see unfold but skeptical to believe will work. Those players would be the Los Angeles Angels’ Shohei Ohtani, and the Tampa Bay Rays’ first round pick in 2017, Brendan McKay.

Ohtani’s path has been well-documented. He delayed the baseball offseason by asking all 30 front offices to give him a comprehensive, business-style sales presentation, courting him like a top high school recruit.



Tampa Bay Rays’ First-Round Draft Pick Brendan McKay

“I’m curious to see how it works out,” McKay said about the Ohtani experiment. “That can give a lot more insight to other teams and obviously, the Rays. When I was in Japan and Taiwan, I would see him on TV all the time doing commercials. I’ve seen him there and seen what he’s about.”

Ultimately, McKay is trying to follow Ohtani’s lead to become part of a new, rare breed of baseball player who can pitch and hit at the MLB level.

“You can expand a roster from 25 to 26 to give your team more options throughout a game and throughout a season, especially when you run into a late-game situation or extended games,” McKay said. “You’ve got more options than a traditional 25-man roster.”

It’s more than just the strategic advantage that highlights the Rays’ desire to let McKay pursue both sides of the ball as a pro. For a club that’s always been on the cutting edge, their \$7 million investment in the 21-year old signifies their belief that he can not only be a hybrid chess piece, but be one of the sport’s future stars.

McKay was the best player in college baseball over the last three years. He won (continued on next page)



BRENDAN MCKAY LOOKS TO BREAK THE MOLD

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the John Olerud Two-Way Player of the Year Award all three years while also being named a First Team All-American. As a junior in 2017, he took home every single National Player of the Year Award, including the Golden Spikes Award and the Dick Howser Award. He went 11-3 with a 2.56 ERA on the mound while leading the ACC in strikeouts. As a hitter, he batted .341 with 18 home runs and 57 RBI, placing top-five in the ACC in four categories.

His accolades and trophies could fill an entire room, but for McKay, 2018 is all about planning for the future. The Rays and McKay worked closely in Spring Training to develop a schedule that would allow him to develop both as a hitter and pitcher, while also keeping his body fresh enough to have success over a 140-game minor league schedule.

“(The Rays) took a lot of input from me from what I had done in college,” he said. “They took my schedule and advanced it to the minor leagues and that sort of schedule. It’s basically the same workload, but you’ve got more intensity each day with a game instead of a practice.”

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Many critics believe that McKay will eventually have to pick one side of the ball, something he said he is willing to do if the organization’s evaluators feel it’s the best course of action. But for now, his preference is to remain a two-way player, something he’s been for his entire life.

“That’s the ultimate goal,” McKay said about doing both in the Majors. “It could be two, three years. It could be more than that, but we’ll see. I want to do it as long as it takes me.”

McKay will likely spend the season with Low-A Bowling Green, High-A Charlotte, or both. While Port Charlotte has made a good first impression on the Rays’ two-way prospect, he’s spent more time near Bowling Green, which is less than two hours away from the Louisville campus.

“I don’t know much about either place, but I’ve driven through Bowling Green and we played Western Kentucky near the Hot Rods’ stadium. I’m excited to get a full season under my belt, whether it be in Bowling Green or Port Charlotte. I think it’s going to be a fun season to see how it goes with 140-plus games in a season.”

He won’t be lacking for friends, either. Two of his college teammates, Grant Kay and Nick Solak are already in the Rays’ organization.

“It was totally impressive watching McKay go about his business - how focused he is, how he is able to handle both success and failure,” Solak said about their two years at Louisville together. “His head is in the right place all the time. He loves being able to do both and to help the team win in as many ways as he can.”

If McKay can replicate his Louisville results as a professional, the sky is the limit for one of the most intriguing prospects in the game. While the skeptics will surround him until he finally proves them wrong, McKay’s closest allies in the sport haven’t been shy to voice their full support.

“He’s going to go through the ups and downs, but he’s going to go through a lot of ups and a lot of success and it’ll be fun to watch him go out there and play the game,” Solak said.

When asked if he thinks McKay can play both ways at the Major League level, Solak said, “Absolutely, I do. If there’s somebody that can do it, it’s McKay.”



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