

# **DUNEDIN BLUE JAYS**

### 2018 2<sup>ND</sup> HALF PROGRAM



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: DANIEL VENN GRAPHIC DESIGN: ALLASYN LIENECK PHOTOGRAPHY: ALLASYN LIENECK, JIM GOINS





Dear Fans:

On behalf of Minor League Baseball and the Dunedin Blue Jays, I want to welcome you to Dunedin Stadium. It is great to see you at the ballpark for another exciting season of Minor League Baseball!

The 2018 season will see the opening of a new ballpark in North Augusta, South Carolina, and based on the success of a program launched in four cities in 2017, this year we are introducing the "Copa de la Diversión," or "Fun Cup," a season-long event series between the 33 teams that have adopted Spanish-language identities in an effort to be more representative of their community.

While you may see some new logos and team identities this spring and summer, what remains the same is the quality, affordable family entertainment in a clean and safe environment that is a staple of Minor League Baseball across the country.

With 20 leagues and more than 250 clubs, Minor League Baseball is where you will find the next wave of baseball's brightest stars on their way to the big leagues. The next Mike Trout, Jose Altuve or Kris Bryant just might be playing in the game you are watching now!

Minor League Baseball also remains an integral part of the sports landscape, and of the communities it represents. Last season, Minor League Baseball's philanthropic endeavors included donating almost \$40 million in cash and value in kind contributions to local and national charities. We are proud to support our National Charity Partners: The ALS Association, the American Cancer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, The BairFind Foundation and Ed Randall's Fans for the Cure, as well as other worthy initiatives and causes.

In 2017, a remarkable 41.8 MILLION fans attended Minor League Baseball games and I am certain that with your continued support, Minor League Baseball will continue to prosper for many years to come. As stewards and fans of the game, it is our responsibility to build, nurture and protect this great game for the future generations of fans.

Thank you again for your passionate support of Minor League Baseball, and most importantly the Dunedin Blue Jays. I wish you a healthy and enjoyable season of baseball. Let's play ball!!

Sincerely,

atoconner

Pat O'Conner President & CEO Minor League Baseball

### **FSL LETTER**



#### FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE

OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CLUBS, INC.

3000 Guit to Bay Suite 219 Charmater, FL 33759 PHONE: 727-734-6146 -EMAL: ken carson@fiondastateleague.com office@fiondastateleague.com KEN CARSON CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT/TREASURER

2018 Baseball Season

Dear Baseball Fans:

This marks the 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Florida State League, and we welcome you to the 2018 baseball season. The League once again had great attendance in 2017, We thank you, our fans, for your attendance in making this a great baseball league.

The Florida State League will again bring you family entertainment at a reasonable cost and we look forward to you joining us for a fun time at the ballpark.

We invite you to attend as many games as possible to allow our baseball staffs the opportunity to provide you with a great experience.

The 2018 All Star Game will be played in Tampa, hosted by the Tampa Tarpons, on Saturday, June 16, 2018.

Remember, this is "Where the Major League Stars of Tomorrow Play Today."

Sincerely, in

Ken Carson, President FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE of Professional Basebail Clubs, Inc.

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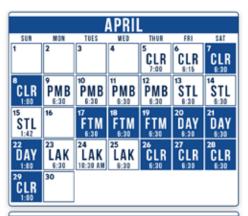
FRIDAY & SATURDAY (8-11PM) Live Entertainment

SUNDAY FUNDAY (11AM-7PM) \$5 Mimosas, Bloody Marys & Screwdrivers



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### 2018 DUNEDIN BLUE JAYS SCHEDULE





	AUGUST											
SUN												
			LAK	LAK	з СНА 5:30							
5 CHA 1:00	6 DAY 7:05	7 DAY 7:05	8 DAY 7:05	° CHA	10 CHA 6:35	11 CHA 8:05						
12 CHA 12:35	13 JUP 6:30	14 JUP 6:30	15 JUP 6:30	16 JUP 6:30	17 STL 6:30	18 STL 5:30						
19 STL 1:00	20	21 CLR 7:00	22 CLR 7:00	23 CLR 7:00	24 BRD 6:30	25 BRD 6:30						
26 BRD 1:00	27 PMB 6:30	28 PMB 6:30	29 PMB 6:30	30 PMB 6:30	31 DAY 6:30							

AWAY

HOME



GAME DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJET TO CHANGE.

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### **2018 SECOND HALF**



### PROMO SCHEDULE

### JUNE

- 29 🕴 BEER, BACON, & FIREWORKS 🋸
- 30 PRINCESSES & PIRATES

### JULY

- 1 CANADA DAY Hockey Puck Giveaway
- 3 HOMETOWN USA FREE EVENT
- FIREWORKS | PRESENTED BY BUDWEISER 🆘
- 12 SPECIALTY DUNEDIN JERSEYS
- 17 CAMP DAY 11AM
- 21 BOWLING TOURNAMENT

### AUGUST

4 LADIES NIGHT

1

18 BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT FIREWORKS & BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

### SEPTEMBER

FAN APPRECIATION NIGHT Wawa

#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON FOR UPDATES TO THE PROMOTIONAL SCHEDULE.

ALL EVENT AND GIVEAWAY DATES ARE Subject to change.





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"Two-one pitch. Clemens takes high. H Kerrigan going back on it...it s

If you were listening closely, you could hear high fives in the background of the Blue Jays radio broadcast as Kacy Clemens rounded the bases following his first Florida State League home run. Sitting next to Dunedin broadcaster Jim Tarabocchia, Kacy's father, seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens, sat with a broad smile across his face.

"That was fantastic!" Roger exclaimed after giving a high five to everyone in the booth. After returning to his seat, he tried to regain his composure to break down the action on the field but could not hide the glee in his voice. "They were throwing him change-ups behind and he finally got a fastball and stayed through the middle of the field.... I'm talking like a hitting coach here!"

The accolades Roger Clemens accumulated on the playing field during his 24-year career are too numerous to list in full. A record seven Cy Young Awards, 11 All-Star selections, seven ERA titles, 354 wins, 4,672 strikeouts, a pair of World Series rings, an MVP in both the regular season and the All-Star Game...and that's just scratching the surface of the fifty-plus awards he took home during his career.

Despite all of his success on the field, in retirement, Clemens is much more proud of what his sons are accomplishing on the baseball diamond than anything he did as a player. Once he hung up his spikes for good, he became a full-time dad.

"He's having fun being dad now," Kacy Clemens, Dunedin's first baseman, said after a recent game with his dad in the crowd at Dunedin Stadium. "Most people see him as the competitor he was between the lines, but for me, he's dad. It's totally different now that he's not playing. He's totally focused on us."



lere's the 3-1. Swing and a fly ball. Well hit! Left center field! sails over his head and over the wall! It's out of here!"

Focusing fully on his kids means a lot of traveling and the occasional cross-country road trip. Kody, the youngest Clemens son, plays at the University of Texas. Kacy started the year in Lansing, Michigan with the Lugnuts before an unexpected promotion to Dunedin.

"My dad came up [to Lansing] and got to see my last three home runs in Lansing. I was just getting my apartment set up behind the field. We put together a towel rack and all this stuff we bought from Walmart and got my apartment all tricked out and ready to go. He left the next day to go watch Kody. Our manager Cesar Martin brought me into his office and told me I was called up," Kacy recalled recently from the Dunedin clubhouse.

"I call my dad and am like, 'I love you and I appreciate you helping me set up my apartment...but, we're going to have to move it all to Florida.' He flew back to Lansing, got my car, packed it with my whole apartment, and drove it 18 hours down to Florida."

Of the gesture, Kacy can only shake his head.

"I was like, you gotta be kidding me! When he got here, he just gave me a hug. He's fired up to be here and watch my first few games in Florida."

Dunedin, FL is familiar territory for the Clemens family. Roger spent two seasons with the Blue Jays in 1997 and 1998, winning the Cy Young Award while leading the league in wins and ERA both years, reporting to Spring Training at Dunedin Stadium each season.

"I have very faint memories of that," Kacy says of his trips to Dunedin to watch his dad play as a young child. "I do remember the cool Reebok shoes I got to wear and getting to put a uniform on was awesome."

While Kacy doesn't remember much of his first trips to Dunedin (he was five at the time), Roger hasn't forgotten the time he spent at Spring Training with his son. On the air during the Blue Jays broadcast, he showed off a photo of him and Kacy twenty years prior in the bullpen at Dunedin Stadium.

"I have good memories of this little stomping ground right here. We're gonna go over and try to recreate a photo that I have with Kacy when he was about five years old on the half field to the left."

In the photo, a tiny Kacy Clemens lugs his father's equipment bag, needing both arms to hold it up, while his father watches.

The following morning, a grown-up Kacy Clemens and his father returned to the same place, Roger in full Blue Jays uniform for the first time in years. It took multiple shots to get the photo right, as the two kept breaking out in laughter every time Kacy tried to recreate the scowl he'd given his dad as a child, unhappy to be carrying an equipment bag that was nearly the same size as he was.

It was one of many Hallmark family moments that have played out at Dunedin Stadium in recent years as the Blue Jays have fielded the sons of a host of other All-Stars (Cavan Biggio, Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Bo Bichette). While drafting famous bloodlines is not an organizational philosophy, the Blue Jays have seen great payouts from selecting players who have learned the work ethic necessary to succeed in professional baseball from their fathers.

"Growing up with him on our side was amazing," Kacy said about his dad's influence on his career. "Who better to go to for advice when you're struggling or when you're playing well or need to know how to play the game the right way?"

While Roger, a career .173 hitter who credits learning to bunt for extending his career, has been hands off with his sons' development as hitters, he can see the impact growing up around Major League clubhouses has had on Kacy.

"Kacy is way beyond his years as far as baseball IQ goes. He's pretty methodical and has a pretty good idea what he's doing. Really, my boys are no different than the other guys out here, chasing their dreams, trying to be a pro, and be tenacious on the field."

Just like Kacy is no different than any of his teammates chasing their baseball dreams, Roger is no different than any of the other parents sitting in the crowd at Dunedin Stadium. He's just a father, rooting on his kid in a game that has been passed down from fathers to sons for generations.

"I love being Kacy's dad and Kody's dad. My boys are what makes the world go around."



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### AFFILIATES



### Buffalo Bisons

International League (AAA)

Coca Cola Field One James D. Griffin Plaza Buffalo, NY 14203 Phone: (716) 846-2000 • Fax: (716) 852-6530 Email: info@bisons.com

Website: www.bisons.com Owner: Rich Entertainment Group Owner & President: Rich Entertainment Group, Melinda R. Rich Manager: Bobby Meacham Pitching Coach: Bob Stanley Hitting Coach: Corey Hart Position Coach: Devon White Trainer: Bob Tarpey Strength and Conditioning: Brian Pike

### New Hampshire Fisher Cats

Eastern League (AA)

Northeast Delta Dental Stadium One Line Drive Manchester, NH 03101 Phone: (603) 641-2005 • Fax: (603) 641-2055 Email: info@nhfishercats.com



Website: www.nhfishercats.com Owner: Arthur P. Solomon President: Mike Ramshaw General Manager: Jim Flavin Manager: John Schneider Pitching Coach: Vince Horsman Hitting Coach: Hunter Mense Position Coach: Andy Fermin Trainer: Drew MacDonald Strength and Conditioning: Ryan Maedel



Florida State League (Advanced A)

#### **Dunedin Stadium**

373 Douglas Ave. Dunedin, FL 34698 Phone: (727) 733-9302 • Fax: (727) 734-7661 Email: dunedin@bluejays.com

Website: www.dunedinbluejays.com Director of Florida Operations: Shelby Nelson General Manager: Mike Liberatore Manager: Casey Candaele Pitching Coach: Mark Riggins Hitting Coach: Donnie Murphy Coach: Michel Abreu Trainer: Dan Leja Strength and Conditioning: Kyle Edlhuber

### AFFILIATES



### Lansing Lugnuts

Midwest League (A)

#### Cooley Law School Stadium 505 E. Michigan Avenue Lansing, MI 48912 Phone: (517) 485-4500 • Fax: (517) 485-4518 Email: info@lansinglugnuts.com

Web: www.lansinglugnuts.com President: Tom Dickson General Manager: Nick Grueser Manager: Cesar Martin Pitching Coach: Tony Caceres Hitting Coach: Tony Caceres Hitting Coach: Matt Young Position Coach: Dave Pano Trainer: Caleb Daniel Strength and Conditioning: Aaron Spano



### Vancouver Canadians

Northwest League (Short-Season A)

Scotiabank Field at Nat Bailey Stadium 4601 Ontario Street Vancouver, British Columbia V5V 3H4 Phone: (604) 872-5232 • Fax: (604) 872-1714 Email: staff@canadiansbaseball.com

Web: www.canadiansbaseball.com Principal Owner & Managing General Partner: Jake Kerr President: Andy Dunn General Manager: JC Fraser Manager: Dallas McPherson Pitching Coach: Jim Czajkowski Hitting Coach: Aaron Mathews Trainer: Michael Rendon Strength and Conditioning: Pat Rosanio



### **Bluefield Blue Jays**

Appalachian League (R)

#### **Bowen Field**

2003 Stadium Drive Bluefield, WV 24701 Phone: (304) 324-1326 • Fax: (304) 324-1318 Email: babybirds1@comcast.net

Website: www.bluefieldjays.com President: George McGonagle General Manager: Rocky Malimisura Manager: Dennis Holmberg Pitching Coach: Adan Bernero Hitting Coach: Carlos Villalobos Position Coach: Chris Schaeffer Trainer: Luke Greene Strength and Conditioning: Justin Batcher

### 2018 ROSTER (AS OF 6/20/2018)

# Pitchers (13 + 3 DL)	нт	B/T	AGE	YRS	BORN	ACQUIRED
18 Jonny Cheshire	6'1"	R/R	23	1	11/15/1994, Grand Rapids, MI	36th Rd, 2017 Draft
20 Yennsy Diaz	6'1"	R/R	21	3	11/15/1996, Azua, DR	Non-drafted free agent, July 2014
41 Connor Eller	6'2"	R/R	24	2	1/23/1994, North Little Rock, AR	22nd Rd, 2016 Draft
26 Jake Fishman	6'3"	L/L	23	2	2/8/1995, Newton, MA	30th Rd, 2016 Draft
21 Juliandry Higuera	6'1"	L/L	23	3	9/6/1994, Falcon, VEN	Non-drafted free agent, Sept 2012
Kelyn Jose (DL)*	6'4"	L/L	23	3	5/19/1995, Nagua, DR	Non-drafted free agent, July 2013
27 Zach Logue	6'0"	L/L	22	1	4/23/1996, Mason, OH	9th Rd, 2017 Draft
Justin Maese (DL)*	6'3"	R/R	21	3	10/24/1996, El Paso, TX	3rd Rd, 2015 Draft
52 Jackson McClelland	6'5"	R/R	22	2	7/19/1994, Cherry Valley, CA	15th Rd, 2015 Draft
25 Patrick Murphy	6'4"	R/R	23	3	6/10/1995, Chandler, AZ	3rd Rd, 2013 Draft
15 William Ouellette	6'1"	R/R	25	2	6/30/1993, Fullerton, CA	Free Agent, June 2016
24 Nate Pearson (DL)*	6'6"	R/R	21	1	8/20/1996, Odessa, FL	1st Rd, 2017 Draft
51 Angel Perdomo	6'6"	L/L	23	4	5/7/1994, San Cristobal, DR	Non-drafted free agent, Nov 2011
17 Andy Ravel	6'2"	R/R	23	2	10/12/1994, Reading, PA	7th Rd, 2016 Draft
16 Tayler Saucedo	6'5"	L/L	25	2	6/18/1993, Honolulu, HI	21st Rd, 2015 Draft
5 Ty Tice	5'9"	L/R	21	1	7/4/1996, Prairie Grove, AR	16th Rd, 2017 Draft
# Catchers (3)	нт	B/T	AGE	YRS	BORN	ACQUIRED
23 Riley Adams	6'4"	R/R	22	1	6/26/1996, Encinitas, CA	3rd Rd, 2017 Draft
44 Alberto Mineo	5'10"	L/R	23	6	7/23/1994, Gorizia, Italy	MiLB Rule 5, Dec 2017
9 Jonelvy Molina	6'0"	R/R	21	1	3/18/1997, Bonao, DR	Non-drafted free agent, July 2015
# Infielders (6 + 3 DL)	нт	B/T	AGE	YRS	BORN	ACQUIRED
1 Ivan Castillo (DL)*	5'9"	S/R	23	5	5/30/1995, Santiago, DR	MiLB Rule 5, Dec 2017
24 Kacy Clemens	6'2"	L/R	23	1	7/27/1994, Houston, TX	8th Rd, 2017 Draft
14 David Jacob	6'4"	L/L	23	2	6/19/1995, Springfield, IL	32nd Rd, 2016 Draft
35 Nash Knight	6'0"	S/R	25	3	9/20/1992, Denton, TX	Free Agent, June 2015
19 John La Prise	6'2"	L/R	23	2	8/24/1993, Doylestown, PA	19th Rd, 2015 Draft
Luis Silva (DL)*	5'11"	R/R	23	2	6/30/1995, Valencia, Ven	Trade w/ Tex, July 2017
10 Kevin Smith	6'1"	R/R	21	1	7/4/1996, Troy, NY	4th Rd, 2017 Draft
Jake Thomas (DL)*	5'10"	L/R	24	3	7/21/1993, Merrick, NY	27th Rd, 2015 Draft
2 Logan Warmoth	6'0"	R/R	22	1	9/6/1995, Orlando, FL	1st RD, 2017 Draft
# Outfielders (3)	нт	B/T	AGE	YRS	BORN	ACQUIRED
3 Rodrigo Orozco	5'11"	S/R	23	3	4/2/1995, Panama City, PAN	Non-drafted free agent, July 2012
7 Josh Palacios	6'1"	L/R	22	2	7/30/1995, Brooklyn, NY	4th Rd, 2016 Draft





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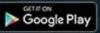
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### **COACHING STAFF**



#### MANAGER

### CASEY CANDAELE

2018 is Casey Candaele's first season managing an affiliated baseball team. As a player, Candaele played 18 seasons in professional baseball, including nine in the Major Leagues with the Montreal Expos. Houston Astros, and Cleveland Indians. He finished 4th in National League Rookie of the Year voting in 1987, hitting .272 in 138 games in his first full season. During his career, he was known as a hard-nosed versatile player who appeared at every defensive position besides catcher and pitcher in the Major Leagues. He retired as a player in 2000 after over 2,100 games in the Majors and Minors. For the past two seasons, he has been the Seattle Mariners' First Base Coach and worked previously in the Texas Rangers' system as a Field Coordinator and Infield and Base Running Coach.

#### PITCHING COACH



Nicrobrewen

Dunedin

### MARK RIGGINS

Mark Riggins returns for his second season in Dunedin in 2018. A former Florida State League All-Star as a player, he retired and began coaching in 1984, ascending through the St. Louis Cardinals Minor League affiliates before being named their Major League Pitching Coach for the 1995 season. From 1996-2007, he was the Cardinals Minor League Pitching Coordinator. He took the same position with the Chicago Cubs from 2008-2010 and served as the Cubs Major League Pitching Coordinator for the Cincinnati Reds and was named their Major League Pitching Coach to begin the 2016 season

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### COACHING STAFF



#### HITTING COACH

#### DONNIE MURPHY

Donnie Murphy joins Dunedin as the team's Hitting Coach in 2018. Like Candaele, Murphy played nine seasons in the Major Leagues as a player, appearing with the Kansas City Royals, Oakland Athletics, Florida Marlins, Chicago Cubs, and Texas Rangers between 2004 and 2014. Murphy retired as a player in 2015 and served as the A-Lansing Lugnuts Hitting Coach during the 2016 and 2017 seasons. In 2017, Murphy guided Lansing hitters to a first place finish in the Midwest League in on-base percentage (.351) and the second-best ranking in average (.268), runs (685), and on-base plus slugging (.742).

#### COACH

### MICHEL ABREU

Coach Michel Abreu begins his second season coaching in Dunedin in 2018 following a 13-year playing career in the minor leagues and foreign leagues. An accomplished hitter, Abreu won the 2006 Eastern League (AA) batting championship (.332), the 2009 Puerto Rican League MVP, the 2012 Mexican League batting title, and the 2013 Japanese Pacific League homerun crown. Across 13 professional seasons, Abreu hit .309 with 239 home runs.



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### 2018 FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE

### **COACHING STAFF**



#### STRENGTH COACH











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- 1. Favorite player growing up: Derek Jeter
- 2. Currently watching on Netflix:

Riverdale

superstitious?:

3. Are you



I used to be, but I broke it. I used to be a real big routine guy, put my clothes on the same, from the moment I woke up until game time.

- Biggest lesson learned in professional baseball: Routines matter (but not in a superstitious way). Set all your work done every day.
- 5. Favorite ballpark food: Hamburger
- 6. Preferred social media: Twitter



- Preferred gaming system:
  PS4 for Fortnight. I haven't played with many guys here, but I'd say Kacy is the best.
- 8. Best minor league promo: Dollar beers

- 9. Clubhouse prank: Sauce changed all of Kacy's Clemens' stuff to say "Kody" Clemens.
- 10. Pets:

l have a golden retriever named Hallie.

11. If you could be a character in any TV show: White Collar



- 12. Best dressed teammate: John La Prise
- Worst dressed teammate:
  I know he'll get mad, but I'll say Jonny Cheshire

14. If you weren't playing baseball, you'd be in: Finance

- 15. Favorite baseball movie: The Sandlot
- 16. Superpower you want: Flying



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### HOW TO KEEP SCORE

Make today's Blue Jays game a lasting memory by keeping score of all the action on the field!

The best part about keeping score is that it's easy! All you need is a pencil, the scorecard on the next page, and a few simple abbreviations.

<b>1ST</b> every player on the field is assigned a number based on their position:	<b>2</b> ND you can combine the position numbers with simple abbreviations to record the action on the field:
1-Pitcher 2-Catcher 3-First Baseman	Single: 1B Double: 2B Triple: 3B Home Run: HR
4 -Second Baseman 5-Third Baseman	Strikeout: K Strikeout Looking: X
6-Shortstop 7-Left Fielder	Fielder's Choice: FC Passed Ball: PB Double Play: DP
8-Center Fielder 9-Right Fielder	Hit By Pitch: HBP Stolen Base: SB Error: E
DH-Designated Hitter	

Every time a batter comes to the plate, use the numbers and abbreviations above to indicate how he reached base or how he was retired.

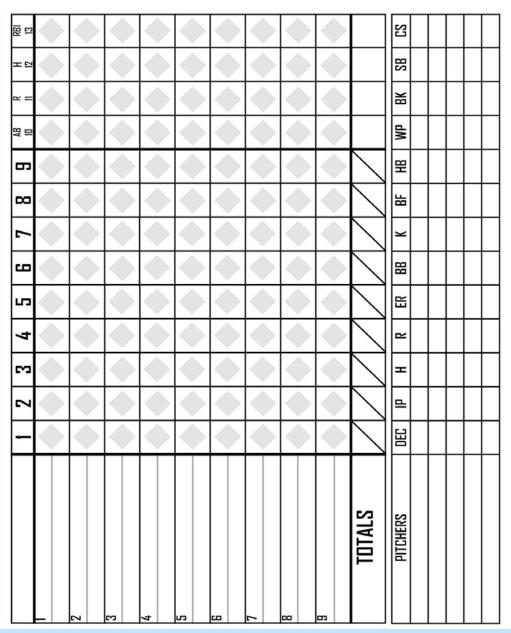
For example, if a player hits a fly ball to the center fielder for an out, you would write: F8. If a batter hits a ground ball, put the numbers for who he hit the ball to and who it was thrown to. So, if a player hits a ground ball to the shortstop who throws it to the first baseman for the out, write: 6-3.

If a player gets a hit, draw a line along the diamond to indicate what base he reached. For example, if

a player hits a single, draw a line to first base and note 1B next to it so you know the player singled. If the player advances, simply draw a line to the base he reaches. If he scores, fill in the diamond to indicate a run scored.

Toronto Blue Jays	#	Pos	8	9	8th inning:
R. Henderson	24	7		Фвв	Carter flies out to the left fielder (F7) Olerud walks (BB)
D. White	25	8		F7	Alomar grounds out to the first base- man, unassisted (3U)
P. Molitor	19	DH		ارھ 🚯	Fernandez hit by pitch (HBP) Sprague walks (BB)
J. Carter	29	9	F7	HR	Borders flies out to the second base- man (F4)
J. Olerud	9	3	Лвв		9th inning:
R. Alomar	12	4	3U		Henderson walks (BB) White flies out to the left fielder (F7)
T. Fernandez	1	6	HBP		Molitor singles (1B) Carter homers (HR)
E. Sprague	33	5	/88		Blue Jays Trivia: What important Blue Jays
P. Borders	10	2	FЦ		game is shown on the scorecard?

### 2018 FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE



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# **FSL TEAM DIRECTORY**



## Bradenton Marauders (70-62 in 2017, 3rd in FSL South)

MLB Affiliate: Pittsburgh Pirates Stadium: LECOM Park (Opened 1923, 8,500 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 1 (2016) At Dunedin Stadium: May 7-9, June 29-July 1



## Charlotte Stone Crabs (69-66 in 2017, 4th in FSL South)

MLB Affiliate: Tampa Bay Rays Stadium: Charlotte Sports Park (Opened 1987, 7,670 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 3 (1989, 2002, 2015) At Dunedin Stadium: June 11-14, August 3-5



## Clearwater Threshers (67-71 in 2017, 3rd in FSL North)

MLB Affiliate: Philadelphia Phillies Stadium: Spectrum Field (Opened 2003, 8,500 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 2 (1993, 2007) At Dunedin Stadium: April 7-8, April 26-29, July 9-12



#### Daytona Tortugas (53-80 in 2017, 5th in FSL North)

MLB Affiliate: Cincinnati Reds Stadium: Radiology Associates Field at Jackie Robinson Ballpark (Opened 1914, 4,200 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 9 (1948, 1953, 1981, 1995, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2013) At Dunedin Stadium: April 20-22, August 31-September 2



#### Dunedin Blue Jays (72-66 in 2017 2nd in FSL North)

MLB Affiliate: Toronto Blue Jays Stadium: Dunedin Stadium (Opened 1990, 5,509 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 1 (2017) At Dunedin Stadium: ALWAYS



#### Florida Fire Frogs (48-81 in 2017, 6th in FSL North)

MLB Affiliate: Atlanta Braves Stadium: Osceola County Stadium (Opened 1984, 5,300 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: None At Dunedin Stadium: May 21-23, July 16-18

# **FSL TEAM DIRECTORY**

#### Fort Myers Miracle (75-60 in 2017, 1st in FSL South)

MLB Affiliate: Minnesota Twins Stadium: Hammond Stadium at CenturyLink Sports Complex (Opened 1991, 9,300 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 7 (1969-1972, 1978, 1985, 2014) At Dunedin Stadium: April 17-19, May 10-12

#### Jupiter Hammerheads (67-68 in 2017, 5th in FSL South)

MLB Affiliate: Miami Marlins Stadium: Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium (Opened 1998, 6,871 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: None At Dunedin Stadium: August 13-16

#### Lakeland Flying Tigers (62-66 in 2017, 4th in FSL North)

MLB Affiliate: Detroit Tigers Stadium: Publix Field at Joker Marchant Stadium (Opened 1966, 8,500 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 6 (1924, 1954, 1976-77, 1992, 2012) At Dunedin Stadium: May 24-27, July 31-August 2

#### Palm Beach Cardinals (74-60 in 2017, 2nd in FSL South)

MLB Affiliate: St. Louis Cardinals Stadium: Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium (Opened 1966, 8,500 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 4 (1974, 1991, 2005, 2017) At Dunedin Stadium: August 27-30

#### St. Lucie Mets (63-75 in 2017, 6th in FSL South)

MLB Affiliate: New York Mets Stadium: First Data Field (Opened 1998, 7,000 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 5 (1988, 1996, 1998, 20 2006) At Dunedin Stadium: June 18-20, August 17-19

#### Tampa Tarpons (85-50 in 2017, 1st in FSL North)

MLB Affiliate: New York Yankees Stadium: George M. Steinbrenner Field (Opened 1996, 11,000 Capacity) Florida State League Championships: 9 (1920, 1925, 1957, 1961, 1994, 2001, 2004, 2009, 2010) At Dunedin Stadium: June 1-3, July 2-3, July 19-21













2018 FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE 39

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# 2018 READING PROGRAM BOOKIN' IT TO THE BALLPARK



A record 19 local elementary schools participated in the eighth annual Dunedin Blue Jays Bookin' It To The Ballpark Reading Program sponsored by TD Bank in 2018. Recognizing literacy as a key skill necessary for academic achievement, the Blue Jays have encouraged and rewarded local students for reading with their annual reading program since 2011. This year, over 1,500 elementary school students across Pinellas County combined to read for 296,383 minutes during the six-week program. In hours, those totals would equal 4,940 hours of reading or over 205 full days spent reading by local students.

The Blue Jays visited all 19 schools during the course of the program, bringing players and their mascot DJay to encourage students. Dunedin players read to and with the students, answered questions from students and teachers, shared their experiences on and off the field, and gave advice on school and sports.

Participating students tracked their reading on baseball-themed bookmarks provided by the Blue Jays, advancing around the bases of a baseball diamond as they read outside of class to score runs for their class. Students who scored two runs for the class by reading 20 minutes at home eight times were rewarded with a ticket voucher to attend a Dunedin Blue Jays game. At the end of the program, the Blue Jays returned with pizza and a classroom library donation for the class that read the most in each school. Of the 19 participating schools, students at Curtis Fundamental Elementary (56,363 minutes) and Lake St. George Elementary (36,920 minutes) read for the most total minutes.







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# PEARSON'S PLAN: **PERSEVERE** BY DANIEL VENN

Four-tenths of a second.

That's how long it takes a human to blink.

That's also how long it takes a 100-mph fastball to travel from the pitcher's hand to home plate, giving hitters literally the blink of an eye to track the pitch, decide if it's a strike, and swing at it.

The human eye can not actually process information that quickly, meaning that the time-tested true baseball cliché "See ball, hit ball" is just that: a cliché. The best hitters don't actually watch the ball as it approaches home plate and hopefully makes contact with their bat. Instead, their brains project where the baseball will cross the plate based on a snapshot their eyes have sent to their mind of the ball just after it left the pitcher's hand.

Having a general idea of where the ball is going to end up (the strike zone) makes it possible for hitters to anticipate where the ball will likely end up and make contact.

On the other end of the equation, the pitcher, standing five or more feet in front of the pitching rubber after releasing the ball, has no such frame of reference to predict where a batted ball hit back at them will end up. Quite literally, a ball hit back at a pitcher with an exit velocity (the speed the ball leaves the bat) of 100 mph is nearly scientifically impossible for the pitcher to see and react to, giving them little to no chance of catching or dodging a line drive hit back at them.

Blue Jays top pitching prospect Nate Pearson was on the wrong end of this unfortunate reality earlier this season when Bradenton outfielder Tyler Gaffney hit a 96-mph fastball back at him with an exit velocity of exactly 100.0 mph in his first start of the season on May 7th.



"I didn't see it. It just hit me," Pearson said recently from the Blue Jays clubhouse, his right wrist in a cast. "I didn't really know what happened. I was shocked and didn't even know where it hit me until my arm really started hurting."

The ball connected with Pearson's throwing arm about two inches above the knobby bone that connects the forearm to the hand on the right side of his wrist.

"When the pain started, it felt like I'd got shot. It was really painful. I knew it wasn't good and probably was broken right away. It was definitely scary."

A trip to the emergency room while his teammates played on confirmed his fears. His right ulna, one of two parallel bones that comprise the forearm, was broken.

After spending the first month of the season on the disabled list with a strained intercostal muscle, Pearson's long anticipated first start of the 2018 season had lasted just an inning and two-thirds and would be his last start for at least six to eight weeks as his arm healed.

"It just stinks. I got injured right when we broke camp and missed a month with that. I worked my way all the way back to get back with the team and first start... this just stinks that it happened."

While the disappointment and frustration is clear in Pearson's voice when he talks about the injury, his determination is much more prominent in his tone as he continues.

"Everything happens for a reason and I just have to trust it. I'll learn something from it and move on. I've always been goal-driven. Ever since I was a little kid, I've written down my goals. I do everything I can to achieve them. Obviously, I have to modify my goals for this season, but the plan is still the same. The plan is to get up there and have an awesome career. This is just a little bump in the road."

The top pitching prospect in the Blue Jays system has grown accustomed to facing down bumps in the road and overcoming them. In high school, he had screws inserted in his arm after an injury and received little draft interest with a fastball that sat in the low 90s. He decided to go to a junior college close to home in Florida with the goal of turning himself into a professional prospect.

"I learned how to take care of my body and get better as a pitcher at college. I started learning more stuff to put in my routine. Health reasons, everything started working, it all started clicking for me."

After two years of collegiate baseball, he held a 1.89 ERA and had struck out 151 batters in just 114.0 innings. His fastball had jumped from the low 90s to an easy 100 mph. Still, he lacked exposure at the junior college level and wasn't considered a major draft prospect. To get scouts' attention, Pearson and his agent set up a private showcase before the draft and he lit up radar guns, being clocked at 102 mph and even hitting 103 on some scouts' guns.

"I knew all the scouts and a lot of GMs were going to be there. I knew if I was going to make it happen, if I wanted to go in the first round, I had to do really well. I had a few weeks to prepare for it and that was my main focus. Luckily, it paid off."

Another goal set, another goal met for Pearson, as the Blue Jays selected him with the 28th pick of the first round of the 2017 MLB Draft. After a start in the Gulf Coast League, he reported to the Vancouver Canadians and dominated, vaulting himself to the top of Blue Jays prospect lists. He opened his professional career with seven straight scoreless outings, throwing 18.0 straight scoreless innings before being scored upon. In the playoffs, he was even better, striking out 10 batters in just four innings against Spokane in the semi-finals before providing Vancouver with four one-run innings against Eugene in the championship.

"I learned that it's still fun. It's still baseball. It's the same game I've been playing since I was little," Pearson said about transitioning to professional baseball with Vancouver. "We had a lot of great guys on that team that made it as fun as possible. Every single game was a pretty good time."

A year later in Dunedin, returning from the emergency room with the bad news that his arm was broken, it was those same teammates that helped Pearson get through it.

"Every single one of them came and asked me how I was doing and said they were praying for me. It was nice to hear. It's a tough pill to swallow, but those guys being there for me was nice."

It's been weeks since the injury and Pearson's work ethic has been constant. He was back at the stadium the same night as the injury and back working out the next morning. He hasn't stopped since.

"I'm doing everything I can to stay in shape so when I get this off, it's not a slow process to get back," he says gesturing at his cast. "I'm doing everything I can with my lower body. I can't hold any weights, but I can have weighted vests on, anything to help my legs stay in shape. I can run, so I've been killing cardio, doing a bunch of core stuff. I'm doing everything I can, whatever they'll let me do. I've been working my butt off at it."

Despite the limitations his cast presents, he's often the first player at the stadium in the morning, working out in the weight room before his teammates arrive. When the team takes the field for batting practice in the afternoon, he's back in the weight room, doing additional work before joining his teammates in the dugout for the game. When the team goes on the road, instead of staying back and avoiding the long bus rides and nights in minor league hotels, he's right there with his teammates traveling on road trips and trying to learn as much as he can while watching the team play.

"I can do most of my stuff on the road. They want to keep me with the team and I'm glad to be able to do that and to stay around my friends on the team. There's always something to learn from it. Always something to take away from stuff that unfortunately happens. I'm still looking. I'm still learning."

Staying around the game and his teammates has helped him cope with the disappointment of his injury, and he's found additional support from being close to his family (he grew up 45 minutes from Dunedin in Odessa, FL) and diving into his faith.

"I go to church with my parents a lot. Now is a more important time to go more than ever. He saved me and everything I've had so far in life has been given to me by Him. It's been such a great blessing. He was with me earlier in my life when I had surgery on my arm and He helped me get through that. This is a very similar situation. I just have to trust Him, that He's got my back and knows the plan."

The cast will be off before the second half begins and Pearson will continue working in earnest to get back on the mound as quickly as possible. Recovering from the second arm surgery of his career, Pearson realizes that he can be a source of support and advice for players enduring injuries just like his teammates have been for him.

"THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LEARN FROM IT. ALWAYS SOMETHING TO TAKE AWAY FROM STUFF THAT UNFORTUNATELY HAPPENS. I'M STILL LOOKING. I'M STILL LEARNING."

"Try to take something away from it. Try to find out and learn something about your body that you didn't know," Pearson says of the advice he gives to other players recovering from injury. "Even if you can't play baseball right now, focus on different aspects of your life. Grow. Always find ways to get better. Don't let whatever happened to you beat your or get you down. Stay positive and do everything you can so when you come back, it doesn't take any longer to get checked back in."

Pearson practices what he preaches, staying both upbeat and tenacious in his recovery. He has his sights set on a 2018 return but understands the organization will be cautious with his prized pitching arm. He knows that regardless of the time table, compared to the career he has waiting in front of him on the mound, this injury will pass like one of his fastballs: in the blink of an eye.



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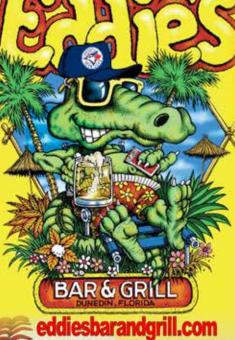
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# VIEW FROM THE BOT

BY JIM TARABOCCHIA

I often receive the question "why do you broadcast baseball?" Heck, I even ask myself that same question sometimes. Personally, though, I love answering it because there are so many layers to the answer.

Allow me to preface all of this by explaining that this is not always as glamorous as it looks. Sure, the performing part is excellent, but the money often times is not, and the long hours away from family and friends can be daunting. To put it into perspective, 30 major league teams hire one main play-by-play man on radio and television with more then half employing a second play-by-play person on the radio side. When you factor in pre-and post game duties, there are roughly 85-95 broadcast jobs at the major league level. Broadcasters from all levels of minor league affiliated and non affiliated ball are applying when there is that coveted opening, which by the way is sparse because of the lack of turnover at the highest level of the game. Throw in the fact that the hiring is done based off how you sound on air, which is always very ambiguous and now you begin to realize you have a better chance to become a U.S. Senator then a Major League Baseball Broadcaster.

The dirty little secret I often do not tell people is I knew this going in back when I was in college. After gathering all of the evidence at the time and talking with professional broadcasters in the industry, I came to the realization that it is a LONG and TRYING road in making to the big leagues as a broadcaster.

I knew though that I needed the game of baseball in some form in my life on a daily basis, especially because my college career ended abruptly because of injury. Being that I still had that fire deep inside of me, I made the proverbial executive decision and told myself I am going to go for the gold.

So back to the question at hand, I do this for a number of reasons. The most obvious is that I love being at the ballpark every single day. Getting access to virtualyl every crevice of the ballpark whether the team is on the road or playing at home is thrilling. Waking up every morning knowing you're going to the ballpark for work with the chance you might see something that has never been done before is an almost indescribable feeling. It is a natural high for me that I do not get anywhere else. No matter how tired I am, being at the field picks my stamina and mood up right away.

Secondly, being a baseball broadcaster and a voice of the team is special. Players, front office personnel, and fans thrive on continuity. Broadcasters painting the picture on radio and relaying the action on the television side serve as the singer to the lyrics of the music created by the players on the field. Baseball fans watch and listen to games similarly to how they listen to their music, to pause the realities of their lives for three to four hours of soothing entertainment.

The broadcaster is the bridge to the action on the field and to the ears and eyes of the listener and viewer. The listener is inviting you into their lives to relay the action. On radio, if you do not describe what is happening, it never happened in the listener's mind. Every little detail, from the description of the play to the batter's stance and color of their shoes and batting gloves is important. As the broadcaster, you are responsible for painting that picture as part of the entertainment value. Then you throw in the stories that humanize the players whether you're broadcasting on radio or television and now that said announcer is leaving a lasting impression inside the listener and viewer's mind.

Most importantly though, I do this day in and day out because of the relationships I develop with fans, players, manager and coaches, parents, and co-workers. There are so many people that come from all different walks of life that infiltrate the ballparks across the country seven days a week that presents the opportunity to develop relationships that become lasting friendships.

The most rewarding feeling I get is when a fan or a parent of a player comes up to me and not only compliments my work but thanks me for doing the job I do as they hope and pray their children make it to the game's highest level. It's not everyday that seven-time C.Y. Young Award winner Roger Clemens comes into a my booth between innings and thanks and compliments me for the job that I do.

I'll never forget when Roger said to me that his whole family listens to the games to hear how his son is doing, or when Dante Bichette and Craig Biggio complimented me on my work and actually inquired about me and my work. Are you kidding me?! Former major leaguers with amazing resumes interrogating me and trying to dig deeper into my life because I am the voice of a team? It makes me feel like a million bucks and is still surreal.

Players towards the end of their career know when it's time to retire and move on to the next stage of their lives. I honestly don't know how long I will be doing this. I'm sure I'll know when it's time to hang the headset up. The great Vin Scully once said though, "Everyday a broadcaster steps into the booth, they are handed a blank canvas," and through the long hours and the six months away of being in the baseball bubble away from family and friends, I continue to look forward to splashing that blank canvas every single day.

## STADIUM INFORMATION

**ATM:** Located behind the box office, near the elevator.

**Autographs:** For your safety, fans are asked to please stay off the dugout tops when seeking autographs.

**Beer Sales:** Beer is available at Dunedin Stadium during all Florida State League games. Florida law prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors. The City of Dunedin and the Blue Jays reserve the right to refuse the sale of alcoholic beverages and may evict from the ballpark any person deemed intoxicated.

**Blue Jays Administrative Office:** The main office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information please call 727-733-9302.

**Disorderly Conduct:** Will not be tolerated and is cause for immediate ejection. If your enjoyment of the game is infringed upon due to profanity or disorderly conduct, please notify a Blue Jays staff member if such aid is needed.

**First Aid:** If you need first aid or are aware of a medical emergency, an usher or security personnel will assist you. Please notify an usher or security officer if such aid is needed.

**Foul Balls:** Fans are permitted to keep balls that land in the seating area as souvenirs. However, fans are not allowed on the field to retrieve a ball or interfere with a ball in play. FOUL BALLS MAY BE DANGER-OUS, PLEASE BE ALERT AT ALL TIMES AND BE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS.

Gates Open: The gates at Dunedin Stadium will open one hour prior to the scheduled first pitch.

Handicapped Accommodations: Dunedin Stadium is handicap accessible. Wheelchair seating is available through the ticket office, and a wheelchair ramp is located down the left field line. An electric wheelchair lift is located down the right field line. Handicap parking is available in Dunedin Stadium's main lot on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Jays Shop: Game days only: 1 hour prior to game time until end of 7th inning

Other ways to purchase merchandise: Dunedin Chamber of Commerce: 301 Main Street, Dunedin, FL 34698 (727)733-3197 Or at DunedinBlueJays.MiLBstore.com

**Lost and Found:** Please visit the customer service booth on the concourse.

**Outside Food and Drink Policy:** Guests are permitted to bring one 20 oz. factory-sealed, non-alcoholic beverage in a plastic bottle into the stadium. Individually portioned food is also allowed. In compliance with City of Dunedin policy, no other bottles, coolers, or cans may be brought into the stadium. These items must be disposed of before entering the gates.

**Parking:** Free parking in the main stadium lot is available to fans on a first-come, first-serve basis on game days.

**Rain Check Policy:** In the event a game is not played or does not progress to or beyond a point of play constituting a regulation game under Official Baseball Rule 7.01 (formerly 4.10) on the date specified on the ticket, fans may exchange their ticket at the Stadium Box Office for a ticket to any regular season Dunedin Blue Jays home game within 365 days of the cancelled game date.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms are located on the main concourse down the first base line. Additional restrooms are located adjacent to the Johnsonville Grill Tent directly behind home plate.

Security: Please note that in response to a league mandated initiative to enhance security and safety, fans attending games at Dunedin Stadium will be required to pass through metal detectors when entering the gates. The safety of our fans is of the utmost importance.

**Smoking Policy:** Dunedin Stadium has been designated a "smoke free" stadium. Absolutely no smoking is allowed in the concourse, seating bowl, or anywhere else inside the stadium's gates, including e-cigarrettes.

**Tickets:** Tickets for Blue Jays games are available at the Blue Jays ticket office, by phone (727-733-0429 or 1-888-525-5297) and online at DunedinBlueJays. com.

**Trespassing:** Any fan venturing onto the playing field before, during, or after a game or event will be subject to criminal prosecution under the criminal code. Any guest who re-enters the stadium after being removed or ejected will also be issued a trespass notice and possible further prosecution.

Will Call Window: Will call tickets are available at the Blue Jays ticket office. Proper identification is needed to receive your tickets.

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