



PLAYER CAPSULES

PROUD TRIPLE-A
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SS **Willy Adames**, 21, will make his Triple-A debut with Durham this season after he was named a 2016 Southern League Midseason and Postseason All-Star with Double-A Montgomery a season ago. The native of the Dominican Republic is ranked the No. 1 prospect in the Tampa Bay system, and the No. 19 prospect in all of baseball by MLB.com. Adames was originally acquired from the Detroit Tigers in exchange for LHP David Price in 2014.

1B/OF **Jake Bauers**, 21, joins the Bulls after he was named a 2016 Southern League Midseason and Postseason All-Star with Double-A Montgomery. The California native is ranked the No. 4 prospect in the Tampa Bay system and No. 73 prospect in all of baseball by MLB.com, and launched four home runs for the Rays in 2017 Spring Training.

C **Curt Casali**, 28, returns to Durham after splitting the 2016 campaign between the Rays and Bulls. The backstop has appeared in 98 games for the Bulls since the start of the 2014 season, while appearing in 152 big league games in the same amount of time.

RHP **Jacob Faria**, 23, opens the season at the Triple-A level for the first time, after his midseason promotion from Double-A Montgomery to Durham in 2016. The right-hander was named a 2016 Southern League Midseason All-Star, and in 2015 led all of Minor League Baseball with 17 wins when he went 17-4 with a 1.92 ERA between two levels.

OF **Johnny Field**, 25, returns to Durham after finishing the 2016 season with the Bulls. Prior to his promotion to Durham a season ago, the Las Vegas native earned Southern League Midseason All-Star honors for the second consecutive year.

RHP **Ryan Garton**, 27, opens the season with Durham for the second straight season. In 2016 the Clearwater, Fla. native split the year between the Bulls and Rays, appearing in 37 Major League games in his first season at the big league level. The reliever went 4-0 with a 3.09 ERA in 22 appearances for Durham a season ago.

1B **Casey Gillaspie**, 24, opens the year at the Triple-A level for the first time in his career. A season ago the switch-hitter was named Tampa Bay's Minor League Player of the Year after combining to hit .284-18-64 in 132 games between Double-A Montgomery and Durham. The 20th overall pick in the 2014 draft out of Wichita St. University, Gillaspie batted .307 in 47 games with the Bulls after his promotion in July in 2016.

RHP **Taylor Guerrieri**, 24, joins the Triple-A ranks after spending all of 2016 with the Double-A Montgomery Biscuits. The 24th overall pick in the 2011 draft, the right-hander tied for the Southern League lead with 12 wins a year ago, while ranking third in innings pitched (146.0).

INF **Jake Hager**, 24, returns to the Bulls for the second straight season after splitting 2016 between Double-A Montgomery and Durham. The 32nd overall pick in the 2011 draft, Hager appeared in 71 games for the Bulls, splitting time between second base, shortstop, third base and designated hitter.

RHP **Chih-Wei Hu**, 23, opens the season with Durham after leading the Southern League with a 2.59 ERA in 2016 with Double-A Montgomery. A native of Taiwan, Hu earned Southern League Midseason and Postseason honors, and also participated in the Futures Game in San Diego a season ago.

RHP **Andrew Kittredge**, 27, embarks on his fourth season at the Triple-A level, and first in the Tampa Bay organization after he was acquired in a trade from Seattle for former Bulls Taylor Motter and Richie Shaffer in November of 2016. The reliever split 2016 between Double-A Jackson and Triple-A Tacoma, combining to go 3-3 with a 3.50 ERA.

LHP **Adam Kolarek**, 28, is back for his second consecutive season in Durham. Last season, the southpaw opened the campaign in Double-A Montgomery, but 34 of his 47 appearances came in a Bulls uniform.

INF/OF **Patrick Leonard**, 24, will open the season in Durham for a second straight year. After appearing in 42 games for the Bulls in 2017 the former fifth round draft pick was transferred to Double-A Montgomery where he remained the rest of the season. The Houston native was originally acquired following the 2012 season from Kansas City in exchange for James Shields and Wade Davis.

C **Mike Marjama**, 27, makes his first stop at Triple-A after batting .288 in 74 games for Double-A Montgomery in 2016. Originally selected by the White Sox in the 23rd round in 2011, Tampa Bay traded for the backstop prior to the 2017 season.

LHP **Justin Marks**, 29, is back in the Bull City for the second straight year after appearing in 25 games for Durham in 2016. On July 16, 2016 Marks made Durham Bulls history, tossing the first ever nine-inning no-hitter by one player in the franchise's Triple-A era. The southpaw appeared in four games for Tampa Bay after a promotion in September.

C **Michael McKenry**, 32, enters his first season in the Tampa Bay organization after splitting 2016 between the Texas, St. Louis, Atlanta and Milwaukee systems. The Tennessee native appeared in 65 Triple-A contests a season ago between four different teams, while also making playing three games for the St. Louis Cardinals. Over an 11-year career, McKenry has played 608 Minor League games and 311 Major League games.

RHP **Diego Moreno**, 29, embarks on his first season with Durham, and first in the Tampa Bay system. The Venezuelan spent the last four seasons in the New York Yankees organization, reaching as high as the Majors when he appeared in four games for the Yankees in 2015. The reliever has posted a 3.10 ERA in 236 career minor league outings.

OF **Shane Peterson**, 29, is in his first season in the Tampa Bay system after spending the last two campaigns in the Milwaukee Brewers organization. The veteran appeared in only 15 contests in 2016 because of a left forearm injury. The California native batted .295 across 93 Major League games with Milwaukee in 2015.

RHP **Jaime Schultz**, 25, returns to Durham for the second straight year, after a 2016 campaign that saw him lead the International League with 163 strikeouts. A former 14th round pick out of High Point University, Schultz will transition to the bullpen in 2017 after starting 27 games for the Bulls a year ago.

RHP **Ryne Stanek**, 25, will open the 2017 season with the Bulls after splitting 2016 between Double-A Montgomery and Durham. The 29th overall pick in the 2013 draft out of the University of Arkansas opened last season as a starter, but converted to a reliever midway through the year. Upon a July promotion to Durham, all 18 of his appearances came in relief.

OF **Dayron Varona**, 29, prepares for his second season with the Bulls after appearing in 117 games for the team a season ago. In his first stint at the Triple-A level, the Cuban defector led the team in doubles (32), RBI (59) and total bases (177). The Havana native spent the first seven years of his career playing in Cuba, before beginning his career in the United States in 2015.

RHP **Neil Wagner**, 33, is back in Durham for a second consecutive season after making 38 relief appearances for the team in 2016. The right-hander appeared in 52 Major League games for the Oakland Athletics and Toronto Blue Jays from 2011-2014.

RHP **Chase Whitley**, 27, will make his Durham debut in his second season in the Tampa Bay system. Claimed off waivers from the New York Yankees following the 2015 season, Whitley split 2016 between Advanced-A Charlotte, Double-A

Montgomery and Tampa Bay while recovering from Tommy John surgery. The Troy University product has posted a 4.69 ERA across 33 Major League games.

INF **Kean Wong**, 21, will make his Triple-A debut with Durham, after he spent all of 2016 with Double-A Montgomery. The brother of St. Louis Cardinals infielder Kolten Wong, Kean was named a 2016 Southern League Midseason All-Star, MiLB.com Organization All-Star and to the Arizona Fall League All-Prospect Team.

LHP **Ryan Yarbrough**, 25, enters his first season in the Tampa Bay organization after he was acquired in a trade with Seattle in January. The southpaw was the 2016 Southern League Pitcher of the Year after going 12-4 with a 2.95 ERA for Jackson in his first year at the Double-A level.