



PLAYER CAPSULES

PROUD TRIPLE-A
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INF **Willy Adames**, 22, returns to Durham after spending the entire 2017 campaign with the Bulls. Ranked the No. 2 prospect in the Tampa Bay system, and No. 22 overall prospect in baseball by MLB.com, the 2017 International League Midseason All-Star led the Bulls with a .277 average and 210 total bases a season ago.

INF **Christian Arroyo**, 22, will embark on his first season in the Tampa Bay organization after he was acquired from the San Francisco Giants in the trade that sent Evan Longoria west. Ranked the No. 6 prospect in the system and No. 81 prospect overall by MLB.com, he was limited to just 59 games in 2017 between Triple-A Sacramento and San Francisco because of two separate disabled list trips.

LHP **Anthony Banda**, 24, was acquired by Tampa Bay from the Arizona Diamondbacks during Spring Training in a three-team trade that sent Steven Souza Jr. to Arizona. The southpaw is ranked the No. 16 prospect in the Rays system by MLB.com and made 35 starts for Triple-A Reno the last two seasons, while making eight appearances (four starts) for Arizona in 2017 for his only Major League action.

1B/OF **Jake Bauers**, 22, returns to Durham after spending the 2017 season in the Bull City. The left-handed swinger is ranked the No. 5 prospect in the system and No. 64 overall prospect by MLB.com, and in his rookie season in the International League swatted 13 home runs and was named Governors' Cup MVP in Durham's playoff run.

C **Curt Casali**, 29, returns to Durham for the fifth straight season, after re-signing with Tampa Bay on March 22. The veteran backstop opened Spring Training with the Texas Rangers, but was released in late March and returned to the Tampa Bay organization. Since the start of the 2014 season Casali has appeared in 183 games for Durham and 161 games for the Rays.

RHP **Diego Castillo**, 24, opens the year in Durham for the first time after splitting the 2017 campaign between Double-A Montgomery and the Bulls. A season ago the right-hander posted a 3.38 ERA and seven saves over 30 regular season appearances, before going a perfect 4-for-4 in save chances in the postseason without allowing a run.

OF **Jason Coats**, 28, is back in game shape after missing the entire 2017 season because of a torn UCL. The outfielder was a member of the Chicago White Sox system from 2013-2016, and hit 27 International League home runs with the Charlotte Knights between the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

OF **Johnny Field**, 26, returns for his third season in Durham. The former 5th-round draft pick spent the entire 2017 season with the Bulls after making his Triple-A debut midway through the 2016 campaign. A season ago the Las Vegas native batted .261 with 12 home runs over 111 games.

RHP **Ian Gibaut**, 24, makes the jump to the Triple-A level to begin 2018 after spending the majority of 2017 with Double-A Montgomery. Over 43 relief appearances a year ago the Houston native posted a 2.22 ERA and struck out 63 batters in 52 2/3 frames.

RHP **Cody Hall**, 30, returns to the Triple-A ranks after spending all of 2017 with Double-A Richmond. The veteran appeared in seven games for San Francisco in 2015 and two games for Miami in 2016.

RHP **Chih-Wei Hu**, 24, is back in Durham for the second straight season after splitting 2017 between Durham and Tampa Bay. A season ago the Taiwan native made four starts for the Bulls and 27 relief appearances, but will transition back into a starting pitcher to begin 2018.

INF/OF **Micah Johnson**, 27, opens his first season in the Tampa Bay system with the Bulls. The Indiana University product has spent parts of three out of the last four seasons in the International League South Division, competing for the Charlotte Knights in 2014 and 2015, and the Gwinnett Braves in 2017.

LHP **Adam Kolarek**, 29, returns to Durham for the third straight season after splitting 2017 between Durham and Tampa Bay. The southpaw posted a 1.65 ERA across 41 relief appearances for Durham last year, and appeared in 12 games for the Rays for his first Major League action.

INF/OF **Joe McCarthy**, 24, will make his Triple-A debut with the Bulls just three years removed from the University of Virginia. A 5th-round pick in 2015, the left-handed batter hit .284 with 31 doubles in 127 games for Double-A Montgomery last season, earning Southern League Postseason honors.

C **Adam Moore**, 33, will spend time in the International League for the fourth straight season after spending the last three years with the Columbus Clippers. The Texas native appeared in 96 MLB contests from 2009-2016 between Seattle, Kansas City, San Diego and Cleveland.

RHP **Jose Mujica**, 21, will make his Triple-A debut when he makes his first start of the year after going 13-8 with a 3.03 ERA in 25 starts for Double-A Montgomery in 2017. The Venezuelan earned Southern League Midseason All-Star honors, surrendering just 128 hits across 154 1/3 innings.

LHP **Vidal Nuno**, 30, begins his first season as a member of the Tampa Bay organization after splitting 2017 between Baltimore and Triple-A Norfolk. The southpaw has appeared in 138 MLB games for the New York Yankees, Arizona Diamondbacks and Seattle Mariners in addition to Baltimore.

RHP **Jaime Schultz**, 26, is back in Durham for a third straight season after spending 2016 as a starter and 2017 as a reliever. The High Point University product missed the majority of 2017 battling a groin strain, but struck out 21 over 11 2/3 frames out of the bullpen. In 2016 he set the Bulls' single-season Triple-A record with 163 strikeouts in a season.

INF/OF **Brandon Snyder**, 31, is back in the International League for the third straight season, and eighth overall, after previously playing for Norfolk, Pawtucket, Gwinnett and Syracuse. Last season the Las Vegas native hit 23 home runs and batted .263 in 121 games for Syracuse.

RHP **Ryne Stanek**, 26, is back in Durham for a third season after splitting the 2017 campaign between the Bulls and Rays. In 37 contests with the Bulls a season ago the University of Arkansas product posted a 1.21 ERA while striking out 60 in only 44 2/3 frames.

LHP **Jonny Venters**, 33, opens the season with the Bulls for the first time after battling injuries each of the past five seasons. A 2011 National League All-Star with Atlanta, the southpaw has undergone three Tommy John surgeries and has appeared in just 29 games since the start of the 2013 season.

RHP **Ryan Weber**, 27, is in his first season in the Tampa Bay system after splitting 2017 between Triple-A Tacoma and Seattle. Prior to last season the St. Petersburg, Fla. native was a member of the Atlanta Braves organization from 2009-2016, appearing in 21 MLB contests in that time.

OF **Justin Williams**, 22, returns to Durham after joining the Bulls for the Governors' Cup Finals and Triple-A National Championship Game in 2017. Ranked the No. 10 prospect in the Rays system by MLB.com, the Louisiana native hit .301 with 14 home runs in 96 games for Double-A Montgomery last season.

INF **Kean Wong**, 22, is back in Durham for the second straight season after batting .265 across 105 games a season ago. The little brother of St. Louis Cardinals' second baseman Kolton Wong, the Hawaiian was named MVP of the 2017 Triple-A National Championship Game when he went 3-for-4 with a grand slam in Durham's 5-3 win over Memphis.

RHP **Hunter Wood**, 24, is back in Durham after splitting time between Double-A Montgomery, Durham and Tampa Bay a season ago. The Arkansas native opened last season with the Biscuits, and bypassed Triple-A for his Major League debut, appearing in one game for the Rays before venturing to Durham to close out the season.